WHAT IF BRITAIN HADN'T CRACKED THE ENIGMA CODE?

100 YEARS OF WEMBLEY

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WELCOME JUNE 2023

Jacques-Louis David's iconic painting of Napoleon Bonaparte crossing the Alps. Discover the life of the French leader and the conflicts he fought by turning to page 27

The Napoleonic Wars – a series of conflicts fought across Europe between 1803–15 – saw Britain and France wrestle for European supremacy. It is an era of history that saw the meteoric rise and fall of one of history's most divisive figures: Napoleon Bonaparte. For this month's Essential Guide, **we've enlisted the help of Dr Michael Rapport to examine the Napoleonic Wars in more detail** – from the contrasting leadership styles of Napoleon and the Duke of Wellington, to **the battles of Waterloo and Trafalgar**. Turn to page 27 to get started.

Elsewhere, we explore some of the most extraordinary events and surprising coincidences that took place concurrently across the globe (*page 51*). We also **investigate the life of Sherpa Tenzing Norgay** who, in 1953, reached the summit of Mount Everest with Edmund Hillary (*page 20*), **examine what might have happened had Britain not cracked the Enigma Code in World War II** (*page 64*), and introduce five fascinating women from science history that you've (probably) never heard of (*page 24*).

Plus, as **Wembley Stadium celebrates its 100th anniversary, we share some of the many events** held at the site over the past century – from football finals to Live Aid (*page 58*), and examine one of Dante Gabriel Rossetti's most famous works (*page 56*).

See you next month!

Charlotte Hodgman
Editor

THIS MONTH'S BIG NUMBERS

13
The number of buses over which Evel Knievel attempted to jump at Wembley Stadium in 1975

72,000
The estimated number of casualties at the 1809 battle of Wagram, during the Napoleonic Wars

18
The total number of days over which the Khoiak ceremonies of ancient Egypt took place

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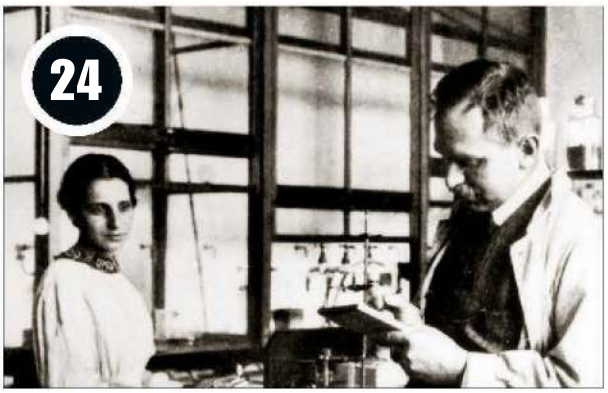

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SNAPSHOTS

1935
HEAD TO HEAD

Amid months of deteriorating diplomatic relations between the Ethiopian empire and Fascist Italy, Bernard Tussaud – great-great-grandson of Madame Tussaud – holds aloft wax heads depicting the two powers' leaders: Haile Selassie I and Benito Mussolini. The Abyssinia Crisis, which began a year before with a border dispute in east Africa, gripped the world throughout 1935 and culminated in the outbreak of the Second Italo-Ethiopian War that October. Despite the League of Nations' condemnation of Italy's invasion, international support for sanctions against the Fascist regime was lacklustre. Mussolini's victory over Ethiopia the next year, which forced Selassie into exile, proved a precursor to World War II.

GETTY IMAGES

SNAPSHOTS

1967 SAFFRON SIT-IN

Buddhist monks gather outside the presidential palace in Saigon (present-day Ho Chi Minh City) to protest the election of Nguyen Van Thieu as leader of South Vietnam. Monks proved to be a thorn in the side of South Vietnamese authorities throughout the Vietnam War. During the presidency of Ngo Dinh Diem (1955–63), a Catholic, the country's Buddhist majority was persecuted, provoking civil disobedience. This reached a crisis point in 1963 when at least five monks set themselves on fire – prompting a US-backed coup that overthrew Ngo. Buddhists continued to resist the subsequent authoritarian juntas that dominated the country throughout the 1960s.

GETTY IMAGES

SNAPSHOTS

1969 BLACK STEEL

A phalanx of Black Panthers stands in solidarity outside a New York City courthouse during the trial of several comrades. Earlier that year, 21 Panthers had been arrested for conspiracy to commit bombings and shootings across the city. Their trial was held amid rising racial tensions in the US, heightened by FBI director J Edgar Hoover's determination to crush black militancy. Their case became a cause celebre; composer Leonard Bernstein even launched a fundraiser, targeting Manhattan's high society, in aid of those indicted. *New York* magazine journalist Tom Wolfe later derided such efforts as "radical chic" – a passing fad for the rich and famous. In May 1971, the trial collapsed and all 21 Panthers were acquitted of the charges.

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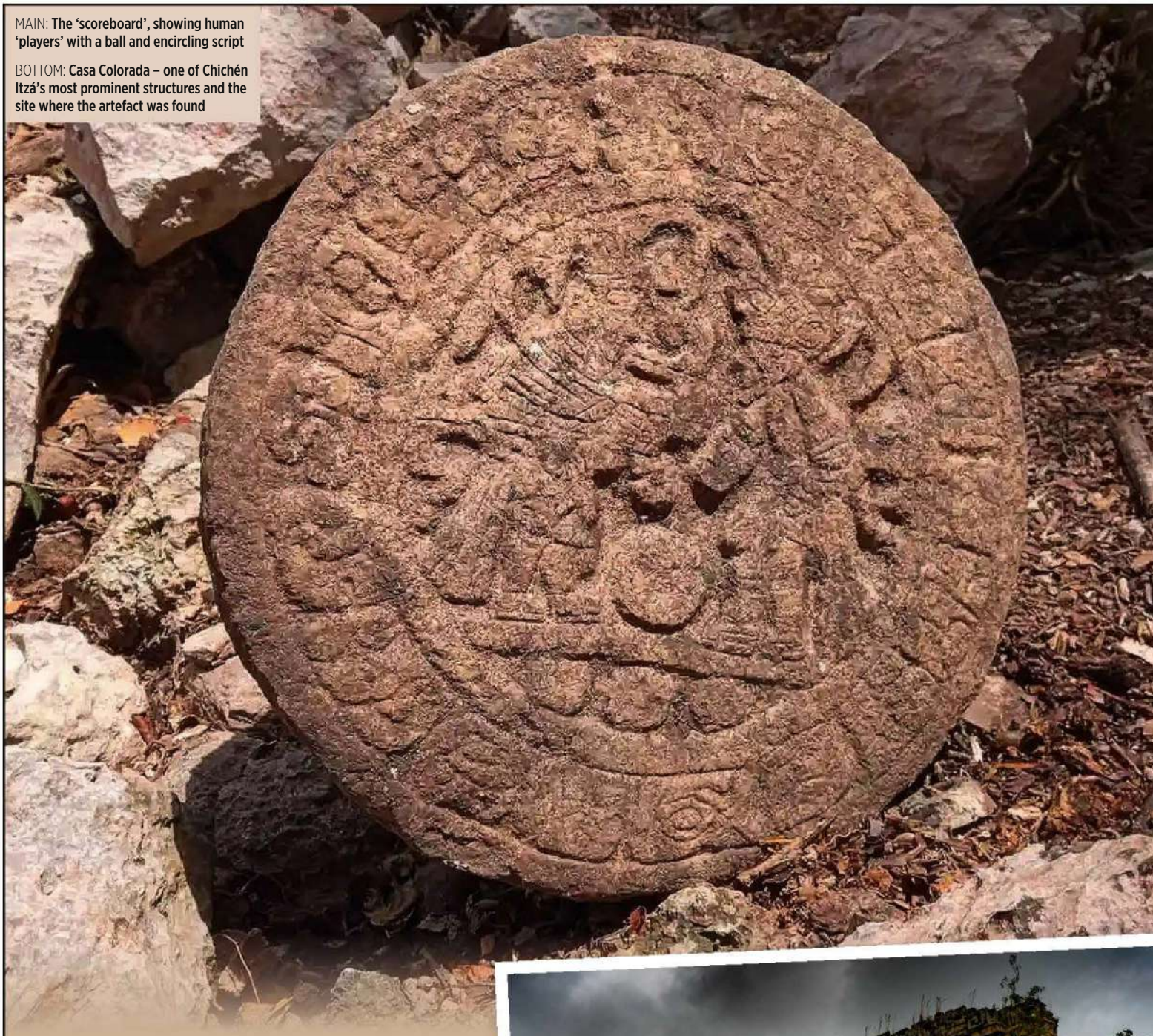
THINGS WE LEARNED THIS MONTH

RECENT HISTORY HEADLINES THAT CAUGHT OUR EYE

MAIN: **The 'scoreboard', showing human 'players' with a ball and encircling script**

BOTTOM: **Casa Colorada – one of Chichén Itzá's most prominent structures and the site where the artefact was found**



RARE MAYA OBJECT BELIEVED TO DEPICT CEREMONIAL BALL GAME

An ancient stone 'scoreboard' measuring just over 32cm in diameter and weighing 40kg has been unearthed by archaeologists at the famous Maya complex of Chichén Itzá on the Yucatán Peninsula. The circular object, which depicts two players standing over a ball surrounded by hieroglyphs, was likely carved around 1,200 years ago, according to Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History. The ball game was widely played by Mesoamerican peoples, and is believed to have held great ritual significance. The discovery is particularly exciting for its well-preserved hieroglyphic script.

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RIGHT: **Three of Shetland's Iron Age settlements are on the Unesco bid shortlist**

FAR RIGHT: **York Minster looms over a city replete with more than 2,000 years of history**

BRONZE AGE MENORCANS TOOK HALLUCINOGENIC DRUGS, STUDY FINDS

Evidence that people living on the Balearic island of Menorca during the Bronze Age took hallucinogens, perhaps for ritual purposes, has been shared by scientists. Researchers analysing ancient strands of hair detected traces of atropine and scopolamine – found in plants of the nightshade family – which can induce delirium, altered states of consciousness and distorted sensory perception. Containers adorned with depictions of eyes also yielded traces of these substances, which may have been used by shamans during cult rituals.

YORK AND SHETLAND SITES SHORTLISTED FOR UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE STATUS BIDS

Thanks to its extraordinary Minster and Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Viking heritage, York's historic city centre has been added to the UK government's 'Tentative List' for a Unesco World Heritage status bid, along with three Iron Age settlements on Shetland. Every 10 years, the government works with local authorities in the UK and its overseas territories to shortlist cultural and natural heritage sites that should be inscribed on the Unesco list of the most important places on the planet.

GERMAN METAL WAS USED TO CREATE THE BENIN BRONZES

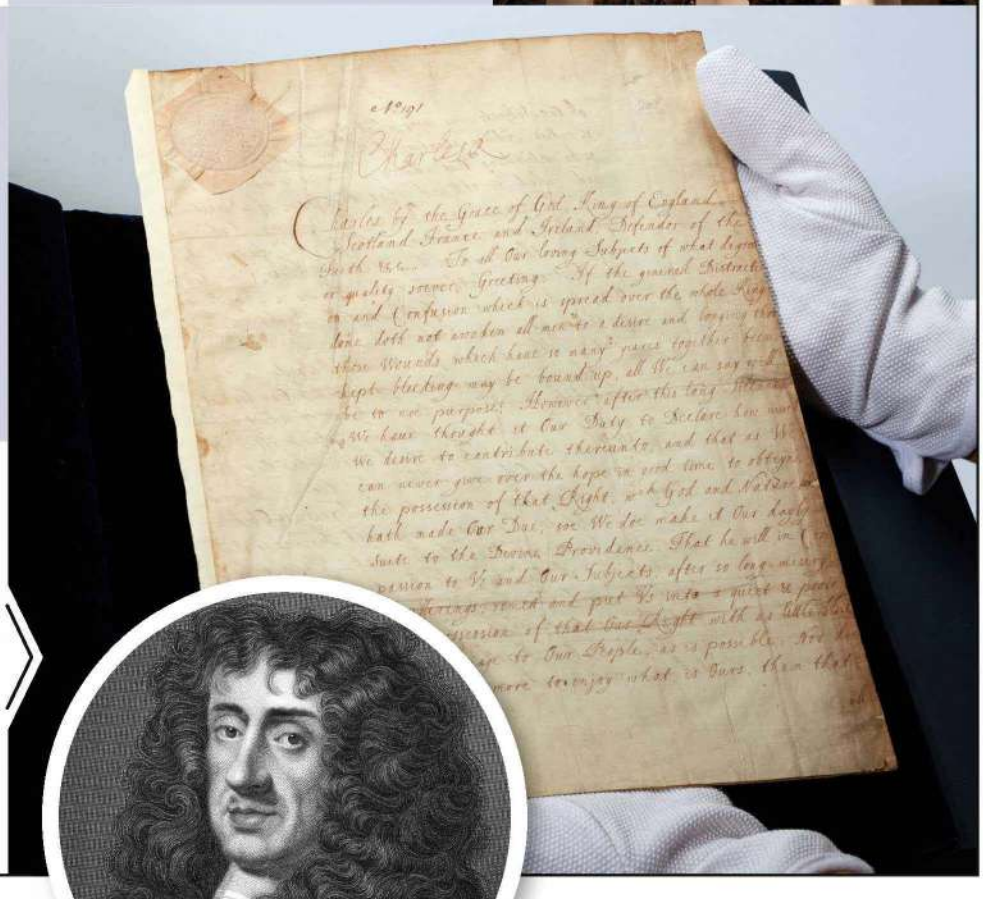
The source of the metal used to sculpt many of the Benin Bronzes – sculptures created by the Edo people of western Africa between the 16th and 19th centuries – has long been a mystery. However, scientists have confirmed that some of the bronzes were made from melted-down bracelets known as manillas, which were used by the Europeans as currency during the Atlantic slave trade. Furthermore, by comparing the isotope signatures of 67 manillas found among shipwrecks, the researchers were able to trace the metal's origins to mines in the Rhineland.

£17,000

The price paid by Wales' historic building organisation, Cadw, for Llys Rhosyr, one of the courts of the medieval princes of Gwynedd

RARE COPY OF THE DECLARATION OF BREDA GOES UP FOR AUCTION

At the time *BBC History Revealed* went to press, a document drafted by Charles II (*depicted right*) in April 1660, prior to the Restoration of the monarchy, was set to be auctioned at Sotheby's in London. Of five original copies of the Declaration of Breda, only two are known to survive. Charles issued the Declaration the month before returning from his long exile during the years of republican government in the British Isles. Representing a blueprint for his reign, it was distributed to power bases including the armed forces.



Joan of Arc inspires the French to victory at Patay

During the Hundred Years' War, a teenage peasant girl who claimed to hear saints' voices sparked a second French triumph over English forces. **Danny Bird** explores the battle that confirmed her destiny

On 18 June 1429, French and English forces clashed outside the village of Patay in the Loire Valley. Assured of victory by the 'holy' conviction of a teenage peasant girl, the French surprised their adversary, smashing through the English line and decimating their army. Although Joan of Arc was absent from the fray, her heaven-sent intuition seemed to have been proved genuine. Patay marked a turning point in the Hundred Years' War, leading to events culminating in the crowning of the French dauphin as Charles VII at Reims just under a month later.

MAIN: **An illuminated manuscript depicting the French victory at the battle of Patay**

ABOVE: **The conclusion of the Loire campaign paved the way for Charles VII's coronation at Reims Cathedral**

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A DAUGHTER OF WAR

Born around 1412 in Domrémy, a small village in northeast France, Joan spent her childhood helping her father on their farm. She grew up amid the bloody turmoil of the Hundred Years' War, which had rumbled on since 1337. Central to this conflict – one of the longest in European history – was a struggle between the kings of France and England for control of France.

By the time of Joan's birth, war between the two countries had been raging for 75 years, beginning with a dispute over the French throne in 1337. The conflict quickly spread into the French countryside, where the English army's 'scorched earth' tactics destroyed much of the country's crops and caused widespread suffering for the peasantry.

The nation was divided in two: one faction – the Armagnacs – had sided with the dauphin Charles (the heir to the French throne), while the other – the Burgundians – had allied with the English, hoping to claim the French throne for the Duke of Burgundy. The people of Joan's village of Domrémy, in northern France, found themselves in a precarious position, caught between the two opposing forces: they lived under Burgundian occupation, but were staunchly loyal to the dauphin, the man they believed to be the true future king. It was a conflicted situation that would have a profound effect on Joan's future.

THE MAID OF ORLÉANS

At the age of about 13, Joan experienced a vision of St Michael. She later also claimed to have received visions of saints Margaret of Antioch and Catherine of Alexandria, whose voices, she said, spoke most clearly to her during the pealing of church bells. They revealed to Joan that it was her destiny to expel the English from France and deliver the dauphin to Reims, the historic site of French coronations.

In early 1429 a determined Joan made her way to Chinon, seat of Charles's court. However, sceptical of her claims, he dispatched her to Poitiers to be assessed by theologians. After three weeks of examination, they agreed to her demands to prove the validity of her mission at Orléans – then under siege by the English. Outfitted with armour, a banner bearing Christ's name and a sword, the adolescent girl – who had no military experience – proceeded to

DID YOU KNOW?

NATIONAL ICON

Despite having been sentenced to death by the Church, Joan's conviction was overturned in 1456. Pronounced a martyr, she went on to become an icon for generations of French patriots. In 1920, Pope Benedict XV canonised her as a saint.

Joan's claims of divine revelations ultimately condemned her to death

"By 1431, Joan was facing an ecclesiastical court in Rouen, deep within English-held Normandy, accused of heresy"

the city with a force of several hundred soldiers. Between 4 and 7 May, Joan led spontaneous but effective attacks against the English positions, inspiring her countrymen to break the siege.

VICTORY AND DEATH

Joan then urged the Armagnacs to force the remaining English garrisons out of the Loire Valley. By mid-June, when Sir John Fastolf arrived with English reinforcements to help resist the French assault on Beaugency, about 15 miles southwest of Orléans, the city had already surrendered. On 18 June, Fastolf and his compatriot, John Talbot, decided to take their combined force of about 5,000 troops back to Paris. Joan, meanwhile, incited the French to give chase, affirming that they would "have good guidance", and that the dauphin would win his greatest triumph yet.

Pursued by the French, English longbowmen concealed in woods north of Patay inadvertently betrayed their location. A rout ensued, during which the French commander, La Hire, sent heavy cavalry to annihilate the enemy. Some 2,000 English troops were slaughtered and all senior commanders except Fastolf captured. Though Joan did not participate directly, her dogged strategy carried the day, paving the way for the dauphin's coronation on 17 July.

Later that same year, the new king Charles VII ennobled Joan and her family. When Burgundian forces laid siege to Compiègne the following spring, she rode to its defence – only to be captured. By 1431, she was facing charges of heresy at an ecclesiastical court in Rouen, deep within English-held Normandy.

Joan's visions threatened the Church's mandate, but her conviction also proved to Charles VII's detractors that he owed his throne to a heretic. Joan refused to renounce her visions, and on 30 May 1431 she was burned at the stake.

OTHER ANNIVERSARIES

A LOOK BACK AT OTHER EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN JUNE THROUGHOUT HISTORY

8 June 1949

NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR IS PUBLISHED

George Orwell's last book, a dystopian novel set in the year 1984, depicts a totalitarian society ruled by Big Brother. He starts drafting it in 1945, before continuing over further spells on the Scottish island of Jura. His health begins to deteriorate as the tuberculosis from which he has long suffered becomes more serious. After the novel's publication, Orwell asserts that it is a warning against – rather than a prophecy of – a future totalitarian nightmare.

21 June 1900

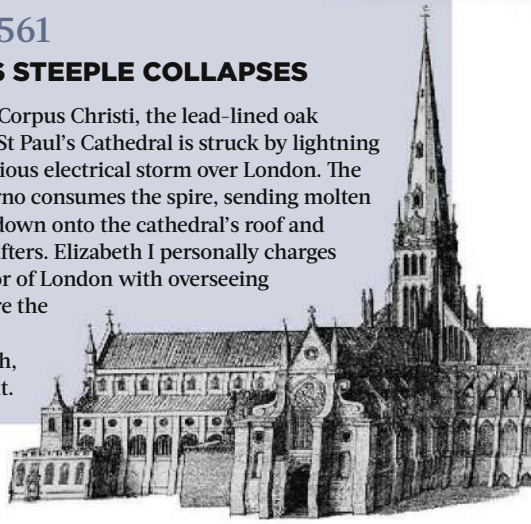
THE BOXER REBELLION LEADS TO WAR

Having pledged their support to China's Qing dynasty, the hostility of the Boxers (officially the Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists) to foreign influence compels Empress Dowager Cixi (*pictured*) to declare war against eight powers including Russia, the US, France, Japan and the UK. Those nations had already sent troops to Beijing, ostensibly to protect foreigners from the Boxers.

4 June 1561

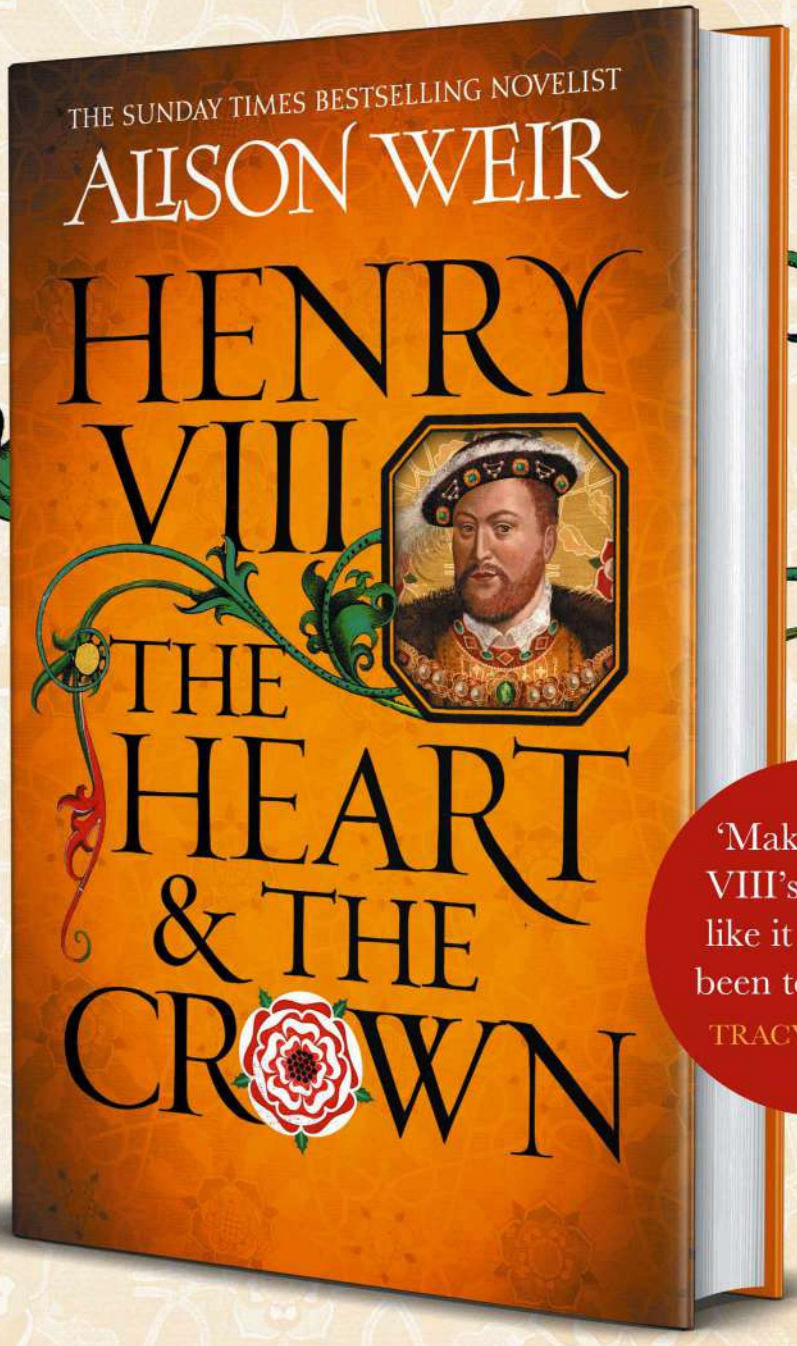
ST PAUL'S STEEPLE COLLAPSES

On the eve of Corpus Christi, the lead-lined oak steeple of old St Paul's Cathedral is struck by lightning during a ferocious electrical storm over London. The resulting inferno consumes the spire, sending molten lead pouring down onto the cathedral's roof and igniting the rafters. Elizabeth I personally charges the Lord Mayor of London with overseeing plans to restore the building. The steeple, though, is never rebuilt.



SIX WIVES. ONE KING.

THIS IS THE STORY YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR...



'Makes Henry VIII's story feel like it has never been told before'
TRACY BORMAN

THE MAGNIFICENT NEW TUDOR NOVEL
FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE SUNDAY TIMES-BESTSELLING
SIX TUDOR QUEENS SERIES ALISON WEIR

LIFE HACKS FROM HISTORY

JUSTIN POLLARD SHARES THE PAST'S BEST (AND WORST) SELF-HELP ADVICE

LIFE HACK #01

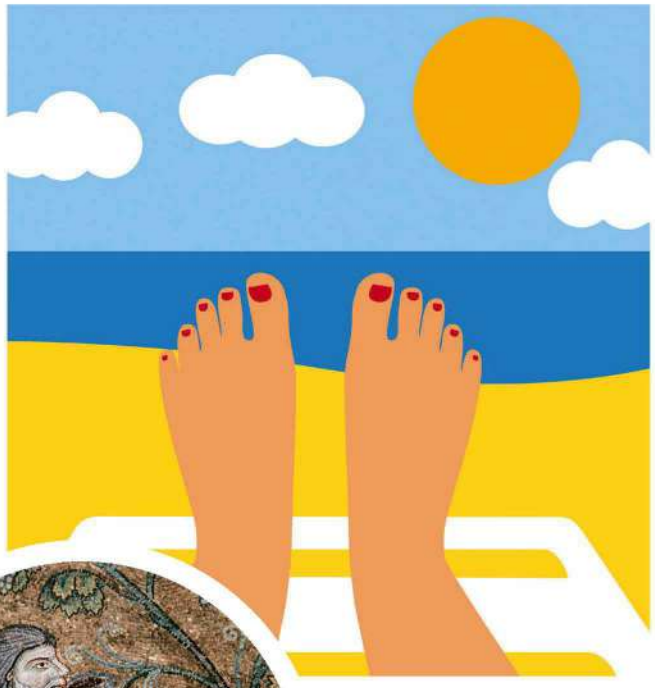
Learn to relax

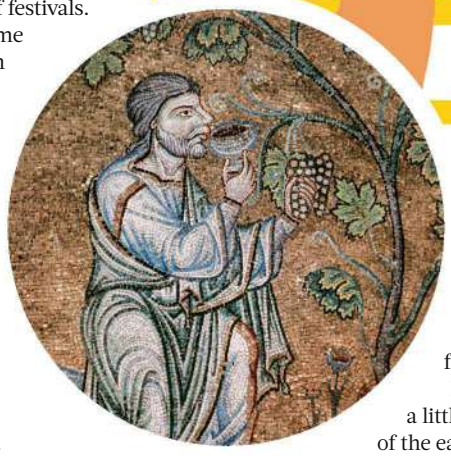
In the first instalment of his exciting new column, acclaimed historian and writer **Justin Pollard** reveals his top tips for unwinding like our ancestors – from throwing a party to going on holiday

As advertisers never tire of telling us, we all need to relax – ideally by buying whatever it is they're selling. But can history help us to relax a little, well, cheaper?

Undoubtedly part of feeling relaxed is getting the right work/life balance. Our hunter-gatherer ancestors in the Mesolithic period worked 15 to 20 hours a week, far less than early farmers, begging the question: was it a good idea to move from living off venison and lobster and take up eating grass?

But the agricultural revolution was not to be stopped, and with it we all bound our lives to the growing seasons. So we needed some sort of distraction – and the agricultural year brought that in the form of festivals. For the Egyptians, party time was nine times a year, with events linked to the cycles of life, death and rebirth on the Nile. The longest of these, the Khoiak ceremonies, lasted for 18 days. Then there were another 50 or so smaller festivals in between, my favourite being the Feast of Drunkenness (Tekh).





Before you put your feet up, why not take some relaxation tips from history? After all, even Noah (*left*) got drunk on wine after the great flood

DEADLY FUN

Of course, any day can be a private festival – or a party, as we call them today – and few did them better than the Persians. According to the Greek historian Herodotus, the Persians not only drank a lot at their parties, but they also used them to make their most important decisions. The next morning they reviewed their verdicts in the grip of a hangover. But do be careful, as too much partying can be bad for you. Attila the Hun was having so much fun celebrating his latest marriage in AD 453 that he passed out and choked to death on his own blood – probably from a nosebleed.

Perhaps try something a little less dangerous? Some of the earliest references to meditation are found in the late Vedic Sanskrit texts known as the *Upanishads*, from around the seventh century BC. These techniques spread through India in the Jain, Buddhist and Hindu religions and beyond, even being practised by the Jewish patriarch Isaac. Today, psychiatrists still try to help us relax using these techniques under the banner of 'mindfulness'.

But what if we can't calm our mind? In that case, there's a long history of getting out of it. The oldest vine seeds from archaeological contexts come from Georgia and date to 7000–5000 BC, suggesting we've been enjoying a drink for longer than is good for us. According to the Book of Genesis, one of the first things Noah did after the flood was plant a vine, make wine and get drunk. Not that I can blame him. The Chinese have been enjoying a nice relaxing cup of tea since at least the third century BC.

INHALATION THERAPY

How about a smoke? Tobacco was first discovered by the people of Mesoamerica, although Roman sources talk about people smoking hemp seeds. But, due to the effects of smoking on those around us, the habit has always had a troubled history. The first Romanov tsar, Michael Fiodorovich, ordered that the lips of smokers should be cut off, while the Ottoman sultan Murad IV prescribed cutting off their heads altogether – not very relaxing. Some regimes took the opposite approach, however. Under the aegis of foreign secretary Viscount Palmerston, Britain went to war with China in 1839 to force it to import highly addictive and illegal opium.

Perhaps we could relax with a nice holiday? In the US the average leave allowance is 10 days a year, which is half that in the UK and, bizarrely, around 50 days less than that of a medieval peasant (assuming they could take every holy day off). This begs the question as to whether our modern time-saving, labour-saving world is really working for us. Perhaps we could ask the San people of southern Africa, many of whom wisely never gave up hunter-gathering and still only work 15 hours a week?

JUSTIN POLLARD is an acclaimed historian and writer. As a historical consultant he has worked on more than 50 film and TV projects, from *Elizabeth* and *Mulan* to the BBC quiz show *QI*

GETTY IMAGES X2

Printing and the information revolution

The invention of the printing press changed the world, enabling the spread of knowledge like never before. As **Danny Bird** reveals, it brought together centuries of innovation at the right place and time

WHO INVENTED PRINTING, AND WHEN DID IT DEVELOP?

There is some debate about where and when printing first developed. Although the ancient Egyptians used woodblock printing to mark textiles, the technology was refined in China and Korea, probably around the sixth century AD.

Crucial to that later development, however, was the development of papermaking in China. The process pioneered during the Han dynasty – according to tradition, in AD 105 – involved pulping rags, mulberry fibres and hemp waste with water. Engravers carved whole texts into wooden blocks that were coated with ink and pressed onto paper, producing facsimiles. The earliest-known printed texts were produced using this technique, including the oldest extant book – the *Diamond Sutra* by Wang Jie, printed in AD 868.

For six centuries, the Chinese kept papermaking a closely guarded secret. But following the defeat of the Tang dynasty at the battle of Talas in 751, the Muslim rulers of the Abbasid Caliphate extracted details from Chinese prisoners of war. Paper mills soon proliferated in Samarkand, a major centre of learning on the Silk Road in what is now Uzbekistan, exporting the commodity throughout the Islamic world. Eventually, knowledge of the process reached Europe, where paper was first produced in 1151 in Xàtiva in al-Andalus, the Muslim-ruled tract of the Iberian Peninsula.

HOW WAS KNOWLEDGE PRESERVED PRIOR TO PRINTING?

The arrival of papermaking in Europe proved instrumental in the eventual success of modern printing. For centuries, reeds harvested from the banks of the Nile had been used to make papyrus on which information could be recorded. Rome's annexation of Egypt in 30 BC gave the empire a monopoly over its production. Books – albeit handwritten by scribes on papyrus scrolls – were commonplace across the Mediterranean Basin until the fracturing and decline of the Roman empire in the fifth century AD. In East Asia, meanwhile, durable and affordable paper was in plentiful supply, and bound blank notebooks were available to buy.

In Europe, the start of the Middle Ages saw a schism within Christianity between Rome and Constantinople (now Istanbul). Biblical scholars depended on a limited supply of vellum (calfskin parchment) to preserve and reproduce scripture. Copying text onto vellum was a time-consuming and extremely costly process. Scribes would work long hours, sometimes in special rooms within monasteries known as *scriptoria*, copying out reams of text by hand – with errors unsurprisingly common – painstakingly creating beautifully illuminated manuscripts.

BELOW LEFT: **Woodblocks carved with whole texts were used by Chinese printers for centuries**

BELOW: **A modern papermaker outside Samarkand, Uzbekistan, works with the raw materials used by generations of artisans**

WHO INVENTED MOVEABLE TYPE AND THE PRINTING PRESS?

Even after knowledge of papermaking had spread to Europe, typography remained a largely East Asian skill. Evidence suggests that Chinese printer Pi Sheng had developed moveable type made from clay in the 1040s. Then, in 1403, the Korean monarch Taejong oversaw the manufacture of around 100,000 pieces of type. Soon after, the use of woodblock

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X1

ABOVE LEFT: **A copy of Gutenberg's printed Bible shows how closely it emulated medieval manuscripts**

THIS IMAGE: **In this illustration, Gutenberg inspects the first proof of his Bible, while his printing press looms in the background**

printing began to take off in Europe. But the fragility of wood soon prompted experimentation with more durable materials.

Johannes Gutenberg, born probably in the 1390s in Mainz (then within the Holy Roman Empire), is credited with inventing the printing press. A skilled metalworker and inventor, he is also acknowledged as the first person to mass-produce resilient, standardised type. To create dies, each letter of the Latin alphabet was carved into a soft metal, such as bronze. That was then coated with molten lead to form a mould, into which an alloy of lead, tin and antimony was poured to cast the type. Gutenberg emulated the block-like design of the Latin characters typical of manuscripts, yielding a close facsimile of the font common throughout Catholic Europe at the time.

The printing press transformed the production of documents, drawing on the earlier principles of woodblock printing and technology used in the production of wine and olive oil. Type was arranged in lines, bound into a sturdy frame, inked, then pressed into paper to form an impression. Having revolutionised the printing process, Gutenberg's approach to the aesthetic of the finished product remained conservative.

WHAT WERE THE FIRST PRINTED BOOKS TO BE PRODUCED?

Gutenberg's machine enabled the mass production of printed works at a speed and quality never seen before. His earliest project – the first book printed in the western world – was his 42-line Bible. First appearing in the mid-1450s, several copies were initially printed on parchment and adorned with the kind of artistry more typical of medieval illuminated manuscripts.

Printing workshops soon spread across the continent, churning out a plethora of printed material. Works produced before 1501 are known as *incunabula* (from the Latin for 'cradle'). Notable among early adopters of the new technology was

> "The arrival of papermaking in Europe would prove instrumental in the success of modern printing"

Venetian humanist Aldous Manutius, who printed ancient Greek and Roman texts in portable and affordable formats, reflecting rising literacy rates.

WHAT WAS THE IMPACT OF THE PRINTING PRESS ON THE ISLAMIC WORLD?

Venice quickly became a major commercial port for printers. In the late 1530s, the Qur'an was printed by Paganino Paganini and his son in the city. Though this seemed a good business opportunity, given the millions of devout Muslims living in the Ottoman empire, the venture ultimately failed. Unlike its Latin counterpart, the cursive style of Arabic script was more difficult to translate into moveable type. Moreover, the art of Arabic calligraphy still garnered huge prestige, and Ottoman scholars continued to rely heavily on handwritten texts into the 19th century.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE LEGACY OF THE PRINTING PRESS?

Tellingly, the advent of the printing press coincided with the end of the Middle Ages. It sent book prices plummeting and, with greater access to learning, new ideas swept Europe, expediting the 'recovery' of Classical knowledge and giving impetus to the Renaissance. Theologian Martin Luther's critique of Catholic doctrine in his *Ninety-five Theses* was a significant beneficiary of the new medium: quickly appearing in print, it went viral in 1517, kickstarting the Protestant Reformation. Subsequently, the luminaries of the Scientific Revolution depended heavily on printed works to critique and advance theories. Combining ancient technologies, Gutenberg's press launched an information revolution – the legacy of which still reverberates in the frenetic digital age we are navigating today.

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BBC RADIO 4 Neil MacGregor explores how the invention of the printing press led to the birth of the modern book in *Gutenberg: In the Beginning Was the Printer*. *bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04k6sjj*

Tenzing Norgay: conqueror of Everest

The 1953 British expedition to tame the world's tallest mountain relied on the expertise of local Sherpas. But, as **Nige Tassell** reveals, only the most accomplished would join the summit attempt

Many details of the early life of the mountaineer Tenzing Norgay are hazy: the date and location of his birth in 1914, for example, and where he spent his infant years. What is certain, though, is that on 29 May 1953, the man born Namgyal Wangdi, son of a Tibetan yak herder, joined New Zealand climber Edmund Hillary in conquering Everest – so becoming one of the first two men to stand on the summit of the world.

It was Tenzing's vast experience of climbing in the Himalaya that had secured his place on that fateful Everest expedition, led by British army officer and mountaineer John Hunt. At the age of 19, Tenzing had left his home in northeastern Nepal and was living in Darjeeling, across the border in India. There he worked as a porter for mountaineering groups, joining the 1935 Everest expedition led by Englishman Eric Shipton, then subsequent British, Canadian and Swiss attempts on the mountain. By 1953, no other climber had taken to Everest's slopes more times than he.

TOWERING REPUTATION

When Hunt recruited his local team to join the 400-strong expedition crew, Tenzing's towering reputation meant that he was a shoo-in for a berth as one of 20 Sherpa guides. In fact, Hunt held him in the highest regard, appointing him as the Sherpa leader. "Tenzing was my obvious choice," Hunt later declared. "His vitality and enthusiasm made a deep and lasting impression on me." Tenzing's seniority among the Sherpa guides was clear. A *Daily Mail* correspondent, embedded with the party in the early stages of the mission, reported that Tenzing's winning smile belied his ability to deliver "terse orders in a tone which commands instant obedience", and possessed "all the bearing of a regimental sergeant-major".

Hillary was also an instant fan. As soon as he arrived at base camp in March, the New Zealander made a beeline for the figure who'd accrued a semi-legendary status in climbing circles. "His success in the past had given him great physical confidence," he later wrote, noting that Tenzing "had substantially greater personal ambition than any Sherpa I had met". Hillary was in no doubt about the goal of his new colleague: "Even then, he expected to be a member of the final assault party."

Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, born the son of a humble yak farmer, pictured around the time of his Everest triumph of 1953

The two men made natural partners, and were selected as one of the expedition's climbing duos charged with making the final assault on the peak once within striking distance. But they weren't first choice to undertake that task. Another pair of Hunt's prime climbers – Tom Bourdillon and Charles Evans – were ahead of them in the pecking order. Those unfortunates came agonisingly close to triumph, but had to abandon their attempt less than 100 metres short of the summit after encountering problems with their oxygen supply.

Hillary and Tenzing were next in line and, three days later, achieved their goal – and historic immortality. They spent a short time at the summit, where they flew the flags of the United Kingdom, Nepal and the United Nations, took some photographs, and buried some offerings in the snow. It was a powerful moment for the man who knew Everest more intimately than anyone else alive.

Having descended, and after the news had been relayed to London (in time for Elizabeth II's coronation on 2 June, four days after their triumph), the pair repeatedly faced the same question: which of them had actually reached the top first? The pair continually insisted that they set foot on the summit simultaneously. "Mountaineering must be friends," Tenzing explained to *The New Yorker* the following year. "You help to me. I help to you. All same. I say I first, Hillary second [or] Hillary say Hillary first, I second – no good. We both together."

The implication made by many in that era of empire was that Tenzing was a mere second-string helper, and that Hillary deserved the spoils and plaudits for himself. Even before the party returned to Kathmandu, knighthoods for both Hillary and Hunt had been announced, recognising their roles in the achievement. It was more than a month later, and only following intervention from the Queen herself, that news emerged that Tenzing would receive the George Medal. Many considered that insufficient. Nepalis had previously been knighted. Why not Tenzing?

PERSONAL AMBITIONS

Once the initial acclaim had subsided, Tenzing – having achieved his life ambition – returned to Darjeeling, where he was appointed director of the new Himalayan Mountaineering Institute. Later he ran his own trekking company, helping others attain their own personal climbing goals – while answering endless questions about that special day back in May 1953.

The life of Tenzing Norgay – the mountain porter from a remote yak farm who became fêted across the planet – was a remarkable one, as he himself colourfully acknowledged in his autobiography, *Man of Everest*. "It has been a long road," he contemplated, "from a mountain coolie, a bearer of loads, to a wearer of a coat with rows of medals who is carried about in planes and worries about income tax."

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Edmund Hillary (*left*) and Tenzing near Camp IX, from where they launched their final assault at 6.30am on 29 May 1953

"Arriving at Base Camp, Hillary made a beeline for the figure who'd accrued a semi-legendary status in climbing circles"

ABOVE: **Hillary, expedition leader John Hunt and Tenzing recount their story using a model at the Royal Geographical Society in July 1953**

RIGHT: **Tenzing holds the union flag, and those of Nepal and India, to be raised on the summit of Everest along with the UN flag**

FAR RIGHT: **The triumphant Tenzing plants his feet in the snow capping the world's highest point at 11.30am on 29 May 1953**

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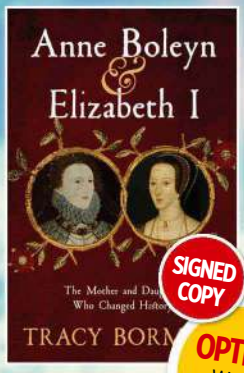

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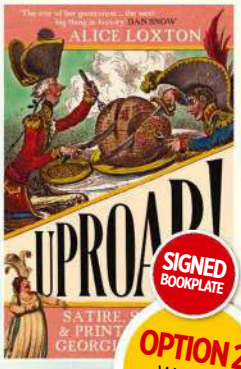

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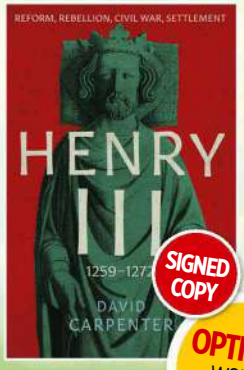

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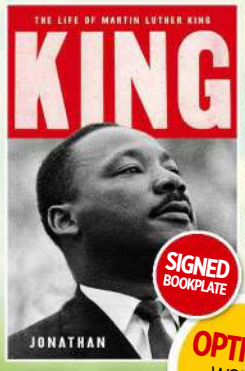

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5 WOMEN IN SCIENCE HISTORY YOU'VE (PROBABLY) NEVER HEARD OF

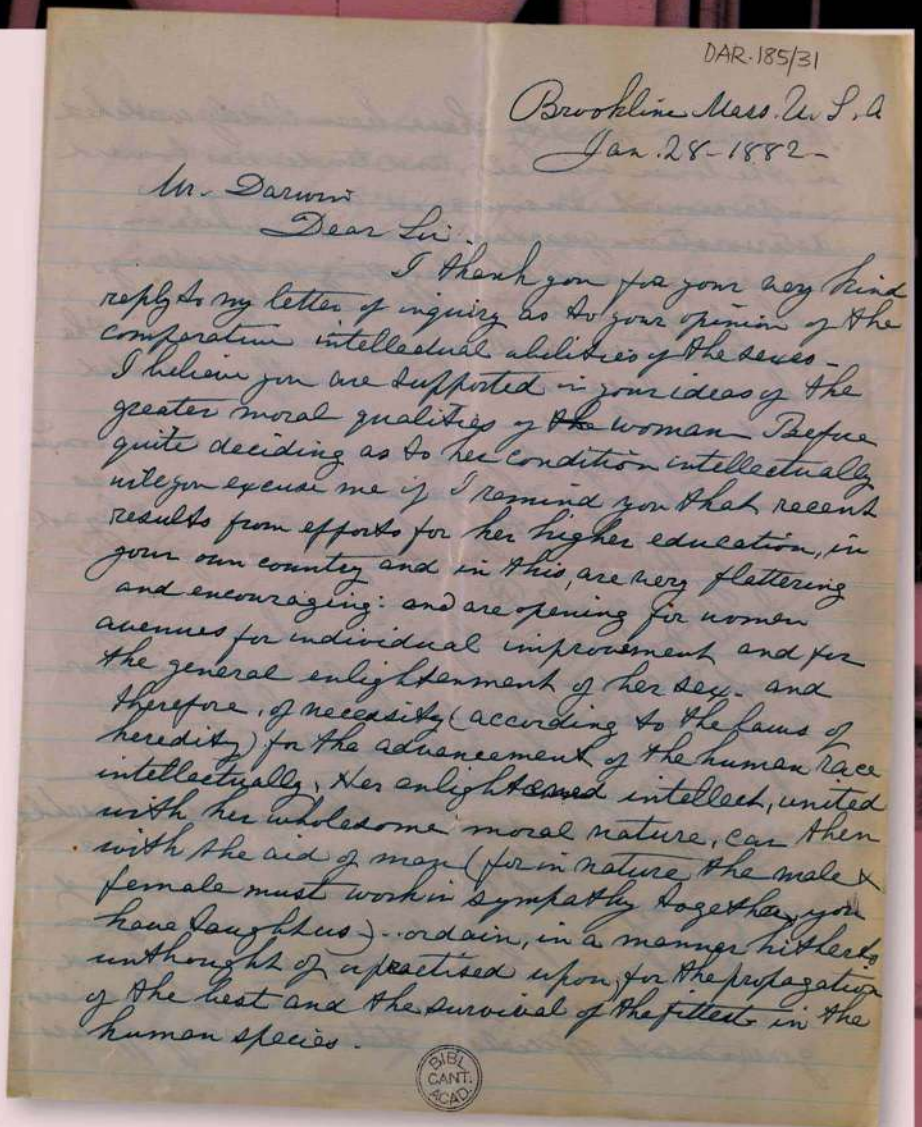
Science journalist **Angela Saini** profiles five tenacious women whose advocacy and research rocked the scientific establishment and challenged long-held preconceptions about gender and ability

1 CAROLINE KENNARD BERATED DARWIN FOR HIS SEXIST VIEWS

Amateur scientist Caroline Kennard (1827–1907) was a prominent member of a movement in Boston, Massachusetts, striving to raise the status of women in society. In 1881, she was shocked to hear another woman cite Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection, detailed in *On the Origin of the Species* (1859), in support of the view that "the inferiority of women; past, present and future" was "based upon scientific principles". Kennard wrote to Darwin, encouraging him to clarify that this was not accurate.

However, the 72-year-old Darwin's response revealed that he did indeed believe that women were less evolved than men. "I certainly think that women though generally superior to men [in] moral qualities are inferior intellectually," he wrote. For women to overcome this biological inequality, he added, they would have to become breadwinners – which might damage young children and the happiness of households.

Kennard's response to Darwin's note, sent in January 1882, was furious. In it she argued that women contribute just as much to society as men, and that the difference between men and women wasn't the amount of work they did but the kind of work they were allowed to do. "Let the 'environment' of women be similar to that of men," she wrote, "and with his opportunities, before she be fairly judged, intellectually his inferior, please."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Mr. Darwin

Dear Sir.

I thank you for your very kind reply to my letter of inquiry as to your opinion of the comparative intellectual abilities of the sexes. I believe you are supported in your idea of the greater moral qualities of the woman. Before quite deciding as to her condition intellectually, will you excuse me if I remind you that recent results from efforts for her higher education, in your own country and in this, are very flattering and encouraging: and are opening for women avenues for individual improvement and for the general enlightenment of her sex. and therefore, of necessity (according to the laws of heredity) for the advancement of the human race intellectually. Her enlightened intellect, united with her wholesome moral nature, can then with the aid of man (for in nature the male & female must work in sympathy together, you have daughters) ordain, in a manner hitherto unthought of & practised upon, for the propagation of the best and the survival of the fittest in the human species.

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Caroline Kennard's 1882 letter to Charles Darwin, repudiating his suggestion that women are inferior to men

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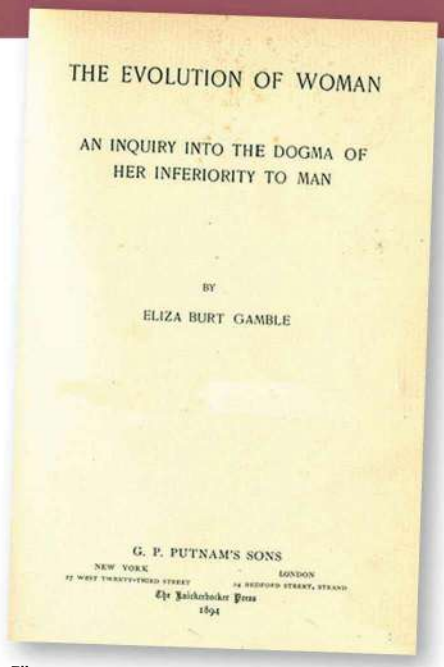
2 ELIZA BURT GAMBLE
CHALLENGED THE INFERIORITY DOGMA

Growing up in Concord, Michigan, Eliza Burt Gamble (1841–1920) had little choice but to be independent. Her father died when she was just two years old, and her mother when she was 16. Left without support, she made her living as a teacher. She later married and had three children, one of whom died in infancy. Gamble could have been a quiet, submissive housewife – but instead she joined the burgeoning suffrage movement and fought for the equal rights of women, organising the first women's suffrage conference in her home state in 1876.

One of the biggest sticking points in the fight for women's rights, she recognised, was that society had come to believe that women were born to be lesser than men. Convinced that this was a fallacy, she set out to find hard proof – by studying Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection. Through her research, Gamble came to believe that Darwin, though correct in concluding that humans evolved like every other living thing on Earth, was wrong when it came to the role that women played in human evolution.

Her criticisms were laid out passionately in her book *The Evolution of Woman: An Inquiry Into the Dogma of Her Inferiority to Man*, published in 1894. In it, Gamble angrily pointed out the inconsistencies and double standards of history, statistics and science, and provided a powerful counterargument to the conclusions made by Darwin and other evolutionary biologists. For instance, Darwin argued that gorillas were too big and strong to become higher social creatures like humans – yet he also used the fact that men are, on average, physically bigger than women as evidence of male superiority.

He also failed to notice, Gamble wrote, that the human qualities more commonly associated with women – cooperation, nurture, protectiveness, egalitarianism and altruism – must have played a pivotal role in human progress. In evolutionary terms, she argued, making assumptions about women's abilities from the way they happened to be treated by society at a given moment was narrow-minded and dangerous. Over the course of human history, Gamble observed, women had been systematically oppressed by men and their power structures. They weren't naturally inferior – they just seemed that way because they hadn't been given any chances to develop their talents.


THE EVOLUTION OF WOMAN

AN INQUIRY INTO THE DOGMA OF HER INFERIORITY TO MAN

BY

ELIZA BURT GAMBLE

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS

NEW YORK

LONDON

The Knickerbocker Press

1894

Eliza Burt Gamble's book, in which she scientifically dismantled 'evidence' of women's inferiority

3 HELEN HAMILTON GARDENER
TESTED WHETHER BRAIN SIZE EQUATES TO INTELLIGENCE

THIS IMAGE: **Helen Hamilton Gardener debunked claims that women have smaller brains than men and are thus less intelligent**

BELOW: **Gardener's own brain, donated to science after her death, is now in the Wilder Brain Collection at Cornell University**

American teacher, writer and suffragist Helen Hamilton Gardener (1853–1925), a passionate advocate for women's rights, was incensed by the use of scientific 'facts' to stymie the fight for equality.

In 1888, at the convention of the International Council of Women in Washington DC, she gave a talk entitled 'Sex in Brain'. In it she argued against American physician William Alexander Hammond's claim, made in the magazine *Popular Science Monthly* the previous April, that women's brains were lighter than men's – and that, by extension, women must be less intelligent.

Gardener realised that her education wasn't yet up to the task of proving Hammond wrong. Writing in her book *Facts and Fictions of Life* (1893), she recalled how "I finally, with fear and trembling, made up my mind to learn what he knew on this subject or perish in the attempt."

It took her 14 months to dissect Hammond's statistics, while corresponding with 20 anatomists and doctors across New York. Gardener's research demonstrated that not one of the experts she consulted could distinguish between male and female brains at birth. Indeed, as she correctly reasoned, if absolute brain size were an indicator of greater intelligence, then whales would be the smartest species, not humans. What matters, she concluded, is relative brain size.

The debate about sex differences in the brain was not resolved during her lifetime – so she promised to leave her brain to science after she died. Today it is well established that brain size is related to body size, and not a direct indicator of intelligence. But that hasn't stopped scientists, even today, examining brains for evidence that women think differently from men.

4 NETTIE MARIA STEVENS MADE VITAL BREAKTHROUGHS IN HUMAN GENETICS

Nettie Maria Stevens (1861–1912) played a crucial role in identifying the chromosomes that determine sex – yet her contributions remain largely ignored today.

During her early adult life, Stevens taught subjects including zoology, physiology, maths, English and Latin at schools in New England. Aged 35, she moved to California to study for a bachelor's degree at Stanford University, majoring in physiology. She graduated at the top of her class, went on to study for a master's, then earned her PhD from Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, in 1903.

Stevens' work was focused particularly on the science of sex determination. She was one of the first scientists to discover that the sex of an organism's offspring is determined by the presence or absence of a particular chromosome in the father's sperm cells. She published her research in 1905, yet credit for discovering the chromosomal basis for sex determination was given to fellow geneticist Edmund Beecher Wilson, who had been conducting similar research independently at Columbia University.

Stevens is widely lauded for her work in embryology and genetics. She died of breast cancer on 4 May 1912.

Biologist Nettie Maria Stevens (*inset*) was one of the first scientists to discover that the sex of an organism is typically determined by whether it has received an X or Y chromosome from its father

5 LISE MEITNER DISCOVERED NUCLEAR FISSION

At the time Lise Meitner (1878–1968) was growing up in Austria, girls weren't typically educated beyond the age of 14. Born into a middle-class family, though, Meitner was privately educated, and was able to pursue her passion for physics. Her father employed private tutors to aid her academic development and to help her prepare for the entrance exam for the University of Vienna, where she majored in physics and received her doctorate in 1906.

The following year she moved to Berlin, where she conducted research at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Chemistry, collaborating with chemist Otto Hahn. In 1938, as anti-Semitism under the Nazis reached terrifying levels, Meitner – who was Jewish – fled Berlin for Sweden. She took a position in Stockholm at the Nobel Institute for Physics, from where she continued to advise and correspond with Hahn and her research team in Berlin.

Physicist Lise Meitner and chemist Otto Hahn pictured at work in Berlin, c1913. Meitner made a pivotal contribution to the discovery of the nuclear fission of uranium

When Hahn told her that an experiment had thrown up some unexpected results, it was Meitner who realised that his experiment was not 'wrong', but had demonstrated the possibility of the nuclear fission of uranium when it absorbed an extra neutron. Despite her crucial contribution to this research, Meitner was not recognised – many say unjustly – when the Nobel Prize for Chemistry was awarded to Hahn in 1944.

ANGELA SAINI is a science journalist and author. Her latest book is *The Patriarchs: How Men Came to Rule* (4th Estate, 2023)

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Dr Michael Rapport discusses why commemorations of the conflicts still shape local and national identities

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HISTORICAL CONSULTANT FOR THIS MONTH'S ESSENTIAL GUIDE

DR MICHAEL RAPPORT
is a reader in modern European history at the University of Glasgow. His books include *The Napoleonic Wars: A Very Short Introduction* (OUP, 2013).

GETTY IMAGES X6, ALAMY X1

NAPOLEON'S RISE AND FALL

APR 1792

▼ Three years into the French Revolution, France's Legislative Assembly declares war on Austria and Prussia, fearing they will launch an invasion in a bid to restore the absolute monarchy of Louis XVI.

A loose coalition of European powers is eventually formed in opposition to France, marking the start of the French Revolutionary Wars.

21 SEP 1792

The French Republic is proclaimed by France's new government, the National Convention. The deposed Louis XVI and his consort, Marie Antoinette, are executed by guillotine the following year.

1796–97

▼ Napoleon Bonaparte, then a relatively unknown commander, rises to prominence during France's successful Italian campaign.

1798

A second coalition of European powers sets out to defeat France, a year after the first fails to achieve its objectives. Meanwhile, Napoleon leads an expedition to Egypt in a bid to establish a new French empire and obstruct Britain's access to India.

SEP 1812

▼ The Russian and French armies clash at Borodino on 7 September, resulting in some 77,000 casualties. Seven days later Napoleon enters Moscow, only for the city to be set ablaze by the Russians. A breakdown in supplies later forces him to retreat amid deadly, wintry conditions.

24 JUN 1812

After amassing an enormous multinational army of more than 600,000 men, Napoleon crosses the Niemen River and invades Russia in retaliation for St Petersburg's reneging on the Continental System.

APR 1809

▲ A fifth coalition of European powers is formed against France. The following month, Napoleon suffers the first major defeat of his career at the battle of Aspern-Essling, near Vienna.

NOV 1807

Portugal's refusal to adopt the Continental System compels France to invade the country via Spain, leading to the outbreak of the Peninsular War. France then occupies Spain the following year, crushing a civilian uprising and overthrowing the Spanish royal family.

GETTY IMAGES X15

26–27 AUG 1813

▼ Prussian, Austrian and Russian armies of a new, sixth coalition engage Napoleon outside the city of Dresden, hoping to smash French control over central Europe. Bonaparte prevails but the coalition remains intact.

16–19 OCT 1813

Napoleon retreats from Leipzig at the so-called 'Battle of the Nations' after a superior allied force mauls about 68,000 French soldiers.

6 APR 1814

An Austro-Prussian-Russian force pursues Napoleon all the way to Paris, where he is forced to abdicate at Fontainebleau. The Bourbons are restored to the French throne, while Napoleon is exiled to the Mediterranean island of Elba.

1 MAR 1815

Napoleon escapes Elba, landing near Cannes in southern France with a force of 1,100 troops. The French king, Louis XVIII, flees the country before Napoleon enters Paris on 20 March, reclaims power, and begins a period of rule dubbed the 'Hundred Days'.

25 MAR 1815

The allied European powers convened at the Congress of Vienna (which has been meeting to decide the future of Europe after the wars) pledge to end Napoleon's rule once and for all. A seventh – and final – coalition is formed.

We chart the sequence of events that followed the French Revolution and saw the emergence of one of history's most feared – and revered – leaders

WORDS: DANNY BIRD

9–10 NOV 1799

◀ Napoleon overthrows France's new government, the Directory, in a coup later dubbed the Coup de 18 Brumaire. He replaces it with a body known as the Consulate and declares himself first consul of the French Republic.

14 JUN 1800

▼ Napoleon consolidates his political position by winning a victory over the Austrians at the battle of Marengo in northern Italy.

27 MAR 1802

▲ The Treaty of Amiens brings the French Revolutionary Wars to an end.

18 MAY 1803

Napoleon's refusal to strike a trade deal with Britain leads to the latter's withdrawal from the Treaty of Amiens. King George III declares war on France, laying the foundations for a third coalition of anti-French powers to form. The Napoleonic Wars begin.

MAY 1804

▲ Following the exposure of a failed assassination plot, Napoleon decides to further consolidate his rule by declaring himself 'Emperor of the French'. In December, he is crowned in a lavish ceremony at Notre-Dame Cathedral.

7–9 JUL 1807

Napoleon signs the first treaty of Tilsit with Tsar Alexander I, establishing a new Franco-Russian alliance. A second treaty is then signed with King Frederick William III of Prussia, marking the end of the fourth coalition.

14 OCT 1806

▼ Prussia, a partner in a new, fourth coalition against France, suffers defeat at the twin battles of Jena and Auerstedt. Napoleon later captures Berlin (*below*), where he announces his Continental System – a plan to block French allies and neutral states from trading with Britain.

2 DEC 1805

Napoleon wins a seismic victory at Austerlitz, defeating a larger Russo-Austrian army. The defeat forces Austria out of the conflict and leads to the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire the following year, as well as the defeat of the third coalition.

21 OCT 1805

A British fleet under Admiral Horatio Nelson engages a Franco-Spanish fleet off Cape Trafalgar on the coast of southwestern Spain. Although Nelson is mortally wounded during the battle, his victory seals British naval dominance for the rest of the wars.

20 OCT 1805

▲ Napoleon's Grande Armée clinches a major strategic victory over the Austrians at the battle of Ulm, resulting in French hegemony over Bavaria.

9 JUN 1815

◀ The Congress of Vienna ends with its participants agreeing to redistribute various territories among them – and bring more than 20 years of near-continuous conflict in Europe to an end.

18 JUN 1815

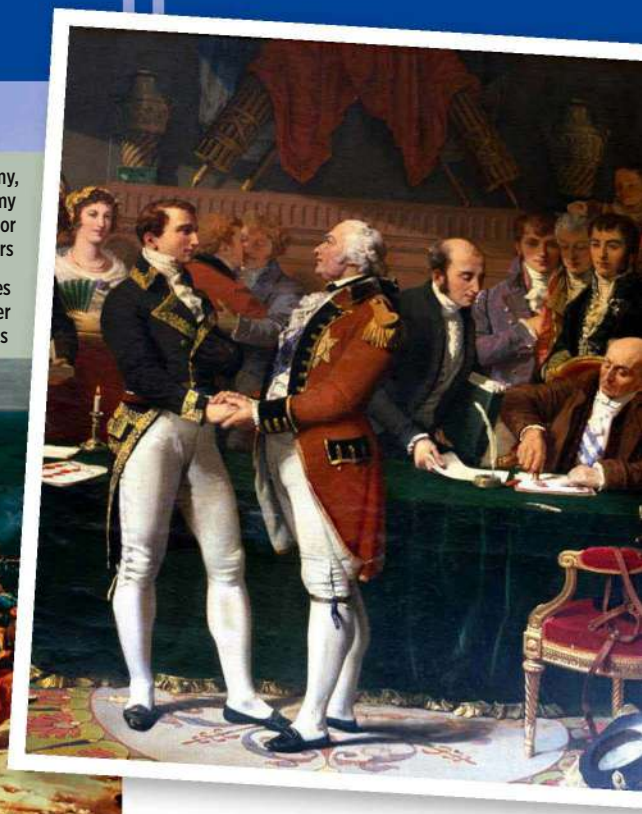
▼ Napoleon endures his ultimate defeat at the battle of Waterloo (in present-day Belgium) after an allied force under the command of the Duke of Wellington, with Prussian support, thwarts his designs.

15 JUL 1815

After abdicating for a second time, Napoleon's regime finally collapses. He surrenders and is taken into exile on the distant Atlantic island of St Helena. The Second Treaty of Paris is signed on 20 November, formally ending the Napoleonic Wars.

5 MAY 1821

▼ Napoleon dies at Longwood House, St Helena, aged 51.



THIS IMAGE: **The 1792 battle of Valmy, in which France defeated a Prussian army 100 miles outside Paris, was the first major clash of the French Revolutionary Wars**

RIGHT: **Napoleon Bonaparte (*left*) shakes hands with Britain's Lord Cornwallis after signing the 1802 Treaty of Amiens**

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NAPOLEONIC WARS

Dr Michael Rapport answers key questions about the sprawling 19th-century conflicts that changed the course of history

Q: What were the Napoleonic Wars?

A: The Napoleonic Wars were a series of conflicts that occurred between 1803 and 1815. The wars were centred around Napoleon and Napoleonic France, but their impact was much wider than just Europe, with repercussions felt around the world. The coalitions that were raised against Napoleonic France between 1803 and 1815 are usually used to number the wars, with the Napoleonic Wars being considered the wars of the third to the seventh coalitions, following the first two coalitions that were formed during the French Revolution in the 1790s. It can be a little confusing, but overall, the Napoleonic Wars were a significant period of conflict that had far-reaching consequences.

Q: What started them?

A: The reasons for the start of the Napoleonic Wars are complex and there are many different explanations. One view is that it represented a collapse of the international system that had shaped European international relations since the 17th century, based on the balance of power. This collapse was primarily due to the unleashing of French military power in the wake of the French Revolution, which other European powers struggled to contain. In the medium term, the wars were a product of the French Revolutionary Wars themselves (the wars of the first two coalitions between 1792 and 1802), which left France in a strategic position in western Europe and threatened the security of other European powers. In the short term, the wars resumed because the peace agreement of 1802 – the Treaty of Amiens – was not really honoured by either side. So it was a combination of factors, really.

Q: What was behind Napoleon's rise to power?

A: One significant factor was the French Revolution, which opened up opportunities for people of talent, regardless of their social status or background. Being of Corsican nobility himself, albeit minor nobility, Napoleon was able to do his training under the old regime, and would not have been barred from the French officer corps. But the revolution opened up careers in the army, government, law, and other areas on the grounds of merit rather than birth and status. The chances of Napoleon rising

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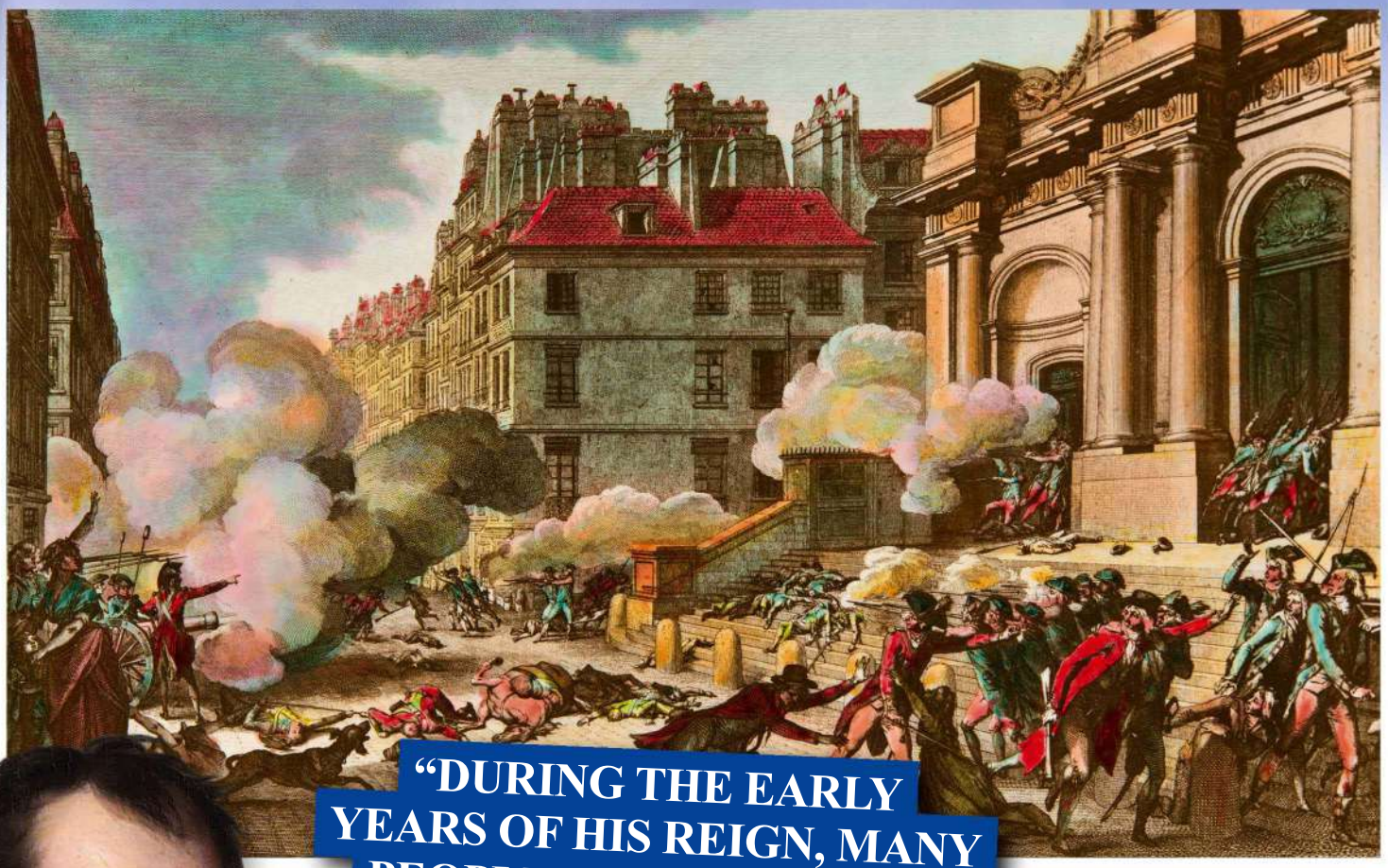


"DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF HIS REIGN, MANY PEOPLE SAW NAPOLEON AS A PEACEMAKER"

ABOVE: **A young Napoleon helped to crush a royalist uprising in Paris in October 1795**

LEFT: **Robert Lefèvre's iconic 1812 portrait of the French emperor**

high up would have been slimmer if it weren't for the French Revolution.

Another reason was the series of European conflicts that the revolution got embroiled in – the French Revolutionary Wars. These conflicts had very high mortality rates, and, although it's not a nice thing to say, the high death rate among officers created opportunities for younger, ambitious, and politically motivated officers like Napoleon, who initially wore their republican credentials fairly visibly. So this, plus the emigration of royal officers who didn't accept the revolution, created opportunities within the French upper ranks.

Napoleon himself first came to the attention of the French revolutionary government in 1793 at the Siege of Toulon, where he commanded the artillery that helped repel the British from the Mediterranean sea port. Then, in 1795, he was the commander of the artillery in Paris, which managed to crush a royalist uprising against the Convention, which was the parliament at the time. And finally, he served as a commander during France's 1796 invasion of Italy, which led to him being able to personally dictate peace terms with Austria – one of France's most resilient enemies.

Overall, Napoleon's rise was meteoric: it took him just six years to go from being a relatively unknown commander to ruling France after taking power in a coup d'etat in 1799.

Q: Why was Napoleon so popular with the French people?

A: Nowadays, Napoleon is widely seen as a warmonger but, surprisingly, during the early years of his reign, many people saw him as a peacemaker. Between 1800 and 1805, there was little fighting in Europe, which allowed him to consolidate his power and focus on leaving a constructive legacy. During this time, he introduced both the Napoleonic Code and the Concordat, which had ended the conflict between the Republican state and the Catholic Church that had torn French society apart and caused civil war.

So Napoleon was able to bring together the old royal elites with the new revolutionary elites, and he tried to combine the core principles of ▶

MAIN: **The 1798 battle of Vinegar Hill saw Britain defeat Irish revolutionaries in County Wexford. Despite French backing, efforts to end British rule in Ireland failed**

ABOVE RIGHT: **A reenactor poses with two replica Congreve rockets. The artillery weapons, designed by Sir William Congreve, were first used during the Napoleonic Wars**

◀ the revolution with the order and hierarchy of the old monarchy. And he had some success with that. For many people in France at the time, Napoleon represented stability and progress, and they appreciated the relative peace that he brought to the country.

But while Napoleon had moments of popularity, there were many who opposed his rise to the top, and he was always aware that his position was precarious. He had seized power in a manner that was of dubious legality, which made him vulnerable to coup d'etats and assassination attempts. Additionally, his fortunes were tied to conflict and conquest, so he knew that if he started to lose, his power would be in jeopardy.

Q: Were there any notable advances in military technology during the conflict?

A: There were certainly some innovations in military technology, but there weren't any game-changing advances. The British experimented with artillery weapons known as Congreve rockets, based on weapons they had encountered in India during the 18th century, and there were also hot air balloons used for observation, semaphore signals used to spread news quickly, and even some early attempts at submarine warfare. However, what really set the French apart – at least in the early parts of the conflict – was the way they used existing technology, such as muskets and artillery, on a much larger scale and in a more standardised and flexible way on the battlefield. So while there were some notable innovations, the most significant advancements were in the tactics and strategies used to apply existing technology.

Q: Was there a threat of a French invasion of mainland Britain?

A: Yes, and it was considered serious. There were two periods when this was feasible. The first was between late 1796 and the summer of 1798, before the War of the Second Coalition – the last of the French Revolutionary Wars. The French had conquered the Netherlands and had made an alliance with Spain – two major naval powers – and this stretched the Royal Navy's capacity to protect home waters.

The British Isles' Achilles heel was Ireland, and the French attempted to land forces there in 1796 and late 1797. In 1798, the French did manage to land an army in Ireland, and it had some initial success, but the British managed to defeat them. The danger was that if the French and Irish allies managed to consolidate their position in Ireland, then it would leave Britain much more vulnerable to invasion.

The second threat was between 1803 and 1805, when, in the wake of the Treaty of Amiens, Napoleon had built up an invasion force in northern French ports with the idea that the army would cross the Channel and land on mainland Britain at an opportune moment. However, there were two problems with this plan. First, the French naval capacity to bring this about was limited with the Royal Navy there, and secondly, war had broken out in Europe itself. So, in the autumn of 1805, Napoleon decided to abandon the plan to invade Britain and to strike eastwards instead to knock Austria out of the war before the Russians arrived, and if needs be, take on the Russians.

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X3

Q: Who was the better general, the Duke of Wellington or Napoleon?

A: They were probably evenly matched. Both men were good at logistics, which is absolutely key in any war, and both were excellent strategists and tacticians. The Duke of Wellington has the edge in one sense, because I'm sure he was less likely to sacrifice men's lives on the scale that Napoleon did, particularly towards the end. On the other hand, Napoleon inspired more personal devotion among his troops, especially among members of the old guard – the men who had fought alongside him for many years.

Where Wellington really shone, though, was in his diplomatic skills. As a negotiator at the Congress of Vienna [a series of meetings that set about restoring peace to Europe following Napoleon's downfall], he and some others understood that imposing harsh punitive treaties on defeated enemies would only create resentment and the desire for revenge. Instead, he went to great lengths to create a wider security architecture that maintained peace for a long time.

They both had their strengths and weaknesses, and ultimately it depends on what criteria you're using to judge them.

Q: What was the effect of the Napoleonic Wars on slavery?

A: In the French empire – in places like Guadeloupe and Martinique – the Napoleonic Wars consolidated slavery, with the notable exception of Saint-Domingue (modern-day Haiti). When slavery was abolished in the French colonies in 1794, the Haitians joined the French and helped fight off the British and Spanish. However, in 1802, Napoleon, wanting to re-establish an empire across the Americas, made the fateful decision to try to bring slavery back to Haiti and sent an army there under his brother-in-law, Charles Leclerc. They were defeated and, in 1804, Haiti became the second independent state in the Americas, after the US.

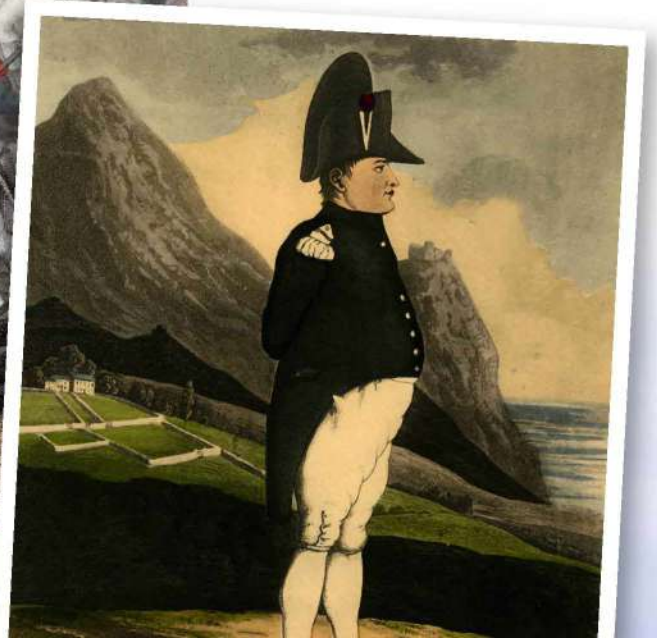
Interestingly, the Napoleonic Wars indirectly weakened slavery in South America because they fed into the Latin American wars of independence, which led to some countries gaining independence from Spain and abolishing the practice once and for all. Overall, it was a very complex picture.

Q: Why was Napoleon exiled after his capture rather than executed?

A: There are several reasons. Firstly, the British who had captured Napoleon knew that he still had some popularity in France, so executing him could have made him a martyr and stoked opposition across the Channel. Secondly, regicide was not something that the British wanted to be associated with – that was something that French revolutionary Jacobins did.

Thirdly, executing Napoleon could have caused needless political tension – not just within Europe and France, but also in Britain, where there were many people who found him fascinating rather than repulsive. The country was already experiencing the demobilisation of soldiers and sailors, the growth of a parliamentary reform movement, and demands for wider suffrage, so killing Napoleon risked causing further instability. Exile was seen as the more prudent option.

"EXECUTING NAPOLEON COULD HAVE CAUSED NEEDLESS POLITICAL TENSION – NOT JUST WITHIN EUROPE AND FRANCE, BUT ALSO IN BRITAIN"



BELOW LEFT: **Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, helped lead the Seventh Coalition to victory at Waterloo in 1815**

BELOW CENTRE: **The 1803 battle of Vertières was the last major clash of the Haitian Revolution – and resulted in France leaving Haiti for good**

BELOW RIGHT: **A sketch depicts Napoleon in exile on the island of St Helena, where he died in 1821**

DR MICHAEL RAPPORT is a reader in modern European history at the University of Glasgow. His books include *The Napoleonic Wars: A Very Short Introduction* (OUP, 2013)

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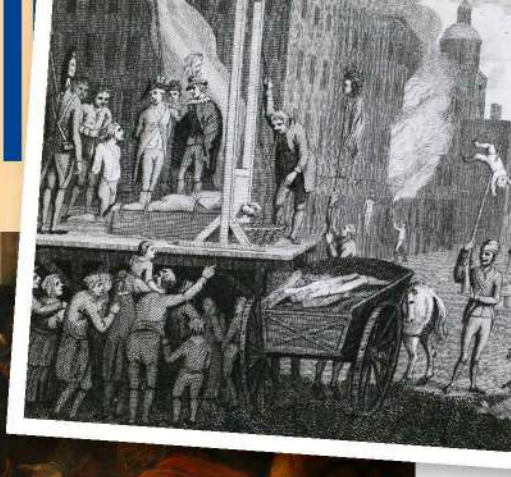


SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY

In 1799, a young general named Napoleon Bonaparte overthrew France's government – and set the nation on a bold new path

In the closing months of the 18th century, the French Revolution – by this stage a decade old – was not in good health. Stymied by ongoing conflict with various coalitions of other European powers in the French Revolutionary Wars, the new republic lumbered from crisis to crisis. The country's economy was listing and civil disorder was widespread.

Profound political turmoil fuelled France's problems. After the First French Republic was proclaimed in September 1792, France was ruled by an elected National Convention, which chose a Committee of Public Safety as an emergency government. In response to the crisis, the Committee oversaw the 'Terror', which claimed the lives of more than 16,000 French citizens. In November 1795, the Convention was replaced by the Directory, a five-man group that attempted to restabilise the country. But the political and economic divisions remained.

MAIN: **An 1840 work by François Bouchot depicts Napoleon overthrowing France's Directory – an event dubbed the Coup de 18 Brumaire**

TOP RIGHT: **The Reign of Terror (1793–94) had resulted in the deaths of more than 16,000 citizens**

A charismatic young general, barely past his 30th birthday, then entered the scene. Napoleon Bonaparte took power in a bloodless coup in November 1799, an incident known as the Coup de 18 Brumaire (Brumaire being, in the revolutionary calendar, the 'month of fog'). "The revolution is over," he told the Directory. "And you have destroyed the Constitution." The new leader aimed to cut through the fog that shrouded France and offer both domestic stability

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X1

and global expansion. Gone were the days of government by committee. Napoleon became the all-powerful first consul, installed as such for the next 10 years. He appointed two other consuls to work alongside him, but their roles were limited to merely offering advice and consultation.

Napoleon's position was confirmed by a plebiscite (a type of referendum) which, although rigged, approved the new constitution. The French public, apparently worn down by several years of chronic political disruption, seemed to be longing for steady, stable governance, whatever the nature of the government itself.

A BRIEF MOMENT OF PEACE

Domestically, Napoleon steadied the financial ship by making good use of the ordered bureaucracy inherited from the Revolution. Internationally, he scored a speedy and significant victory over Austria in northern Italy, resulting in the signing of the Treaty of Lunéville in early 1801. A year later, France and Britain signed the Treaty of Amiens, in which lands recently conquered by the British were ceded. The treaty also confirmed that London, eager to re-establish overseas trade now that the Revolutionary Wars were over, formally recognised France as a republic.

Peace fell on Europe – for 14 months, at least. That short period was a busy one for Napoleon. During this time, he instigated a new legal system in France, while also improving relations with the Catholic Church. Furthermore, revisions to the French constitution went to the public for approval in another plebiscite. Again, it was good news for him. His period of office was no longer that of 10 years. He would now be first consul for the remainder of his life.

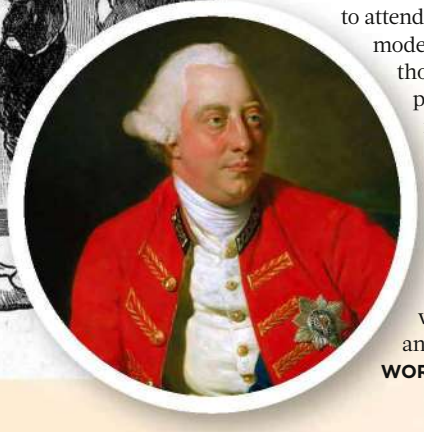
But the peace was fragile and short-lived. Rather than be content with the make-up of Europe now that the guns had fallen silent, Napoleon made moves to occupy neighbouring Switzerland. Many European nations saw this as proof that France would seek to dominate the rest of the continent, upsetting the existing balance of power. Furthermore, these *ancien régimes* and coalitions were fearful of the spread of anti-monarchist revolutionary ideas. Having already seen how American colonists had extracted themselves from British rule, there was agonised concern across Europe that this republican zeal would continue to travel eastwards. Indeed, Napoleon was labelled as "the revolution incarnate". It was a clash of ideologies, further fuelled by the forthright French leader's expansionist tendencies.

BELOW: **A painting depicts Napoleon and his troops passing through the Alps on their way to surprise the Austrian army in Italy**

BOTTOM LEFT: **Conscripts, such as the young man depicted here, made up a huge portion of Napoleon's Grande Armée**

BOTTOM RIGHT: **King George III declared war on France a mere 14 months after the 1802 Treaty of Amiens**

"THE FRENCH PUBLIC SEEMED TO BE LONGING FOR STEADY, STABLE GOVERNANCE"



BUSINESS AS USUAL

The British retaliated by refusing to hand over the Cape Colony, located at the southern tip of Africa, back to the Dutch, as per the conditions of the Treaty of Amiens, arguing that French aggression had forced their hand. Fearing its capture by the British, Napoleon sold 828,000 square miles of French territory in North America to the United States. This, the Louisiana Purchase, effectively surrendered any ambitions he might have fostered to further extend the French empire on the other side of the Atlantic.

Britain demanded that France withdraw from Switzerland and the Netherlands, and that the strategically significant Mediterranean island of Malta be placed under British rule for 10 years. Napoleon, not exactly enthusiastic for the resumption of war, nonetheless rejected the latter demand, counter-offering that Malta be placed under the jurisdiction of a third-party state without allegiance to either London or Paris. This refusal provoked Britain into blockading French ports, with the 14 months of peacetime having given the British navy time to re-strengthen itself after the Revolutionary Wars. Diplomatic intervention by Russia, in the form of Tsar Alexander himself, failed to reduce the tension.

On 14 May 1803, George III wrote to his secretary of state, Lord Hawkesbury, outlining his intention to declare war on France. "The conduct of France has been... unfair to the last and though conscious of the Evils that must be entailed on many Countries by the renewal of War... it seems necessary to attend alone to the best modes of repelling... those objects which our present means render attainable."

War was declared four days later, plunging Europe into yet more prolonged conflict. The sound of guns would ring out for another 12 years.

WORDS: NIGE TASSELL

NAPOLEON'S BIGGEST BATTLES

We examine the stunning victories and painful defeats that would come to define the ruler's military career

SIEGE OF TOULON

AUGUST–DECEMBER 1793

An audacious raid that announced Napoleon Bonaparte to the world

It may not be as celebrated as the likes of Austerlitz or Friedland (*see page 37*). Yet when it comes to evaluating Napoleon's greatest victories, the Siege of Toulon cannot be overlooked. It was here, after all, that he first revealed his genius.

The Siege of Toulon took place from August to December 1793 at the height of the French Revolutionary Wars. French royalist forces, supported by an Anglo-Spanish fleet, had seized the Mediterranean port, and French republican efforts to dislodge them initially failed.

Napoleon changed all that. He masterminded an attack that, in the early hours of 17 December, ejected the allies from a series of forts along Toulon's anchorage. Napoleon lost blood in the assault, courtesy of a wound to the thigh inflicted by a British bayonet. But he gained a lot more.

A coloured engraving depicts a youthful Napoleon explaining his plans for taking the port of Toulon

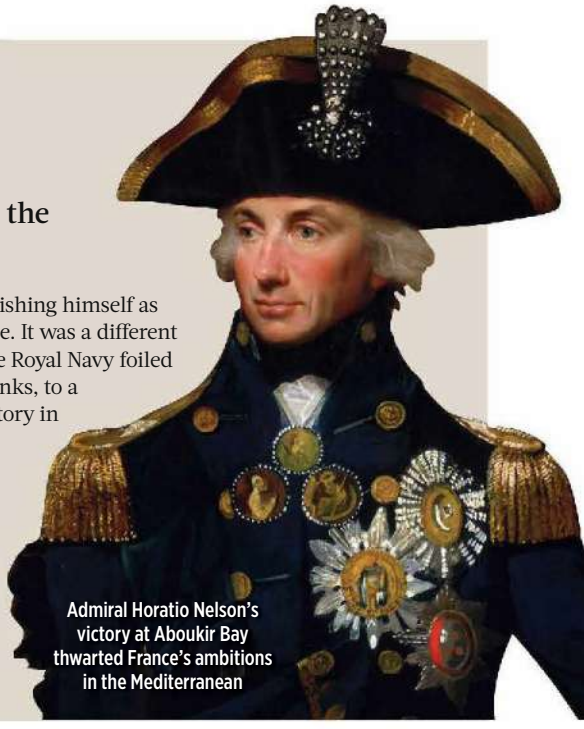
THE NILE

1–3 AUGUST 1798

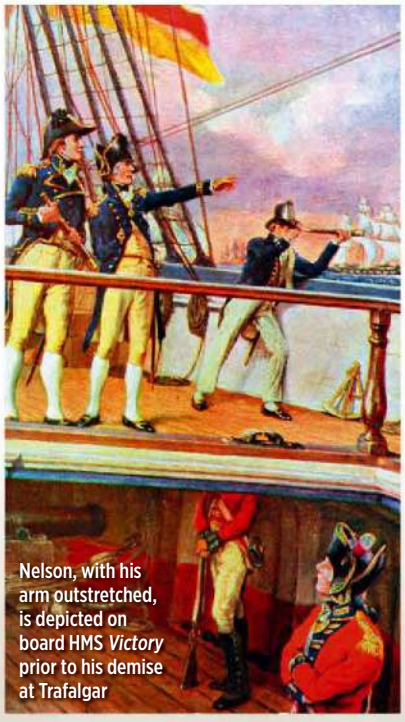
When Napoleon's aims of dominating the Mediterranean sank without trace

By the end of the 1790s, Napoleon was rapidly establishing himself as a dominant figure across much of continental Europe. It was a different story on water, however. For more than a decade, the Royal Navy foiled Napoleon's attempts to dominate the high seas – thanks, to a considerable extent, to Admiral Horatio Nelson's victory in Aboukir Bay from 1–3 August 1798.

The battle of the Nile was triggered by Napoleon's decision to send a fleet to Egypt to support a French occupation of the country. Nelson tracked the French to the coast of north Africa and, at dusk, decided to pounce. The battle raged all night. Nelson himself sustained a wound to the head. But, by early the following day, just two of France's 13 ships of the line had evaded capture or destruction. The British were now the undisputed masters of the Mediterranean.



Admiral Horatio Nelson's victory at Aboukir Bay thwarted France's ambitions in the Mediterranean



Nelson, with his arm outstretched, is depicted on board HMS *Victory* prior to his demise at Trafalgar

TRAFALGAR

21 OCTOBER 1805

The feted naval clash that ended Nelson's life – and Napoleon's plans to invade Britain

An iconic admiral dies at the moment of his greatest victory. Is it any wonder that, for the British people at least, the battle of Trafalgar held more emotional resonance than perhaps any other battle of the 19th century?

This Horatio Nelson-led victory over a combined Franco-Spanish fleet on 21 October 1805 sent Britons into raptures and a state of deep mourning. It also consigned Napoleon's plans to invade England to the dustbin of history.

Nelson had long been seeking to land a telling blow on the Franco-Spanish navy and got his chance when his opposite number, Admiral Villeneuve, led his fleet out of Cádiz, heading for Naples. Nelson caught up with the enemy west of Cape Trafalgar, off the coast of southwestern Spain. Uttering the famous line "England expects that every man will do his duty", he led a two-pronged attack on the enemy that saw Villeneuve captured and 19 or 20 ships of his 33-strong fleet destroyed.

Nelson was mortally wounded by a sniper as the battle raged. Yet, by the time he died, victory was all but assured.

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X4

AUSTERLITZ

2 DECEMBER 1805

A Napoleonic masterpiece that saw one empire die, and another reach new heights

François Gérard's 1810 painting *The Battle of Austerlitz* shows Napoleon being presented with a captured Russian general

Napoleon Bonaparte is widely remembered as one of history's greatest military tacticians, one who bestrode the early 19th-century global stage like a colossus. That towering reputation was built, to no small degree, on his exploits at Austerlitz in early December 1805.

By the end of 1805, as the War of the Third Coalition gathered momentum, the French emperor had his Austrian and Russian opponents on the back foot. In November 1805 his troops had seized Vienna, capital of the Austrian empire, and now they set about chasing both the Austrian and Russian armies into Moravia (in the east of what is now the Czech Republic).

Then something strange happened. The French forces suddenly started to disintegrate, their right flank appearing in particular disarray. As the troops neared the town of Austerlitz, the newly emboldened Austrian and Russian armies decided that now was the time to strike.

What the allies hadn't realised, though, was that Napoleon had been luring them into a trap. His armies' apparent weakness was a ruse, designed to tempt his enemies into battle. Once they took the bait, he proceeded to crush them, repelling an attack on his right flank and smashing the allies' centre, before mopping up the rest of their armies.

Victory at Austerlitz not only provided further evidence of Napoleon's brilliance as a general, it also transformed European geopolitics. With the Russians and Austrians now effectively nullified as fighting forces, Napoleon was able to establish the Confederation of the Rhine, a series of German client states intended as a buffer zone between France and central Europe. Soon, the increasingly redundant Holy Roman Empire, which had dominated central European politics since the Middle Ages, had collapsed.

Historical reenactors, portraying Austrian infantry, open fire during a recreation of the seismic clash

"ONCE THE ALLIES TOOK THE BAIT, NAPOLEON PROCEEDED TO CRUSH THEM"

JENA-AUERSTEDT

14 OCTOBER 1806

When the French defeated the Prussians twice in a single day

The 14th October 1806 was a dark day for Prussia. The kingdom suffered not one but two crippling reversals to Napoleon's armies within 15 miles of one another.

The first battle saw Napoleon make short work of Prince Friedrich Ludwig's forces at Jena in the state of Thuringia. Yet Napoleon's victory was overshadowed by events down the road at Auerstedt. Here, French general Louis-Nicolas Davout's forces saw off a much larger Prussian army in a show of resilience that impressed even the French emperor.

Davout was made Duke d'Auerstädt for his efforts. As for Prussia, it would be completely swallowed up by the French within just six weeks.

Napoleon inspects his Imperial Guard ahead of the battles at Jena and Auerstedt

FRIEDLAND

14 JUNE 1807

When Napoleon put a Russian army to the sword

Russia's loss at Friedland prompted Alexander I to seek a peace deal

Why does Friedland merit its place among the most consequential Napoleonic battles? Because it was here – on 14 June 1807, near modern-day Kaliningrad – that the French emperor established himself as *the* dominant force in western and central Europe.

Standing between him and that achievement was a 58,000-strong Russian army that had advanced east to assist its Prussian allies. The Russians had failed in that objective – Napoleon's victory over Prussia at Jena-Auerstedt had seen to that – but could they defeat the French without Prussian assistance?

The answer was a decisive 'no'. Having repulsed a Russian attack, the French drove their enemies into the village of Friedland and cut them down with volleys of canister and grapeshot. Russian emperor Alexander I was forced to seek an armistice.

Russian reenactors recreate the 1812 battle of Borodino – one of the bloodiest clashes of the Napoleonic Wars

WAGRAM

5–6 JULY 1809

The clash that saw the French emperor knock Austria out of the war

By the time massive French and Austrian armies came face to face on a plain northeast of Vienna in the first week of July 1809, the Napoleonic Wars had been raging for six years. Yet the ensuing clash around the village of Wagram would take the conflict to new levels of intensity.

Featuring 300,000 combatants, Wagram was the largest battle in European history to date, one that witnessed the heaviest concentration of artillery fire yet employed in any war. Given this, it's perhaps hardly surprising that it was the bloodiest clash of the Napoleonic Wars yet, exacting 72,000 casualties.

In the end, Napoleon prevailed because he acted decisively and swiftly, crossing the Danube and delivering hammer blows to Austrian forces, led by Archduke Charles, before they could be supplemented by 30,000 troops led by Charles's brother, Archduke John.

Such speed of action would deliver stunning results: Napoleon's victory at Wagram delivered a lethal blow to the so-called Fifth Coalition, an alliance between Austria and Britain aimed at reversing the French emperor's advances into central and eastern Europe.

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X5

BORODINO

7 SEPTEMBER 1812

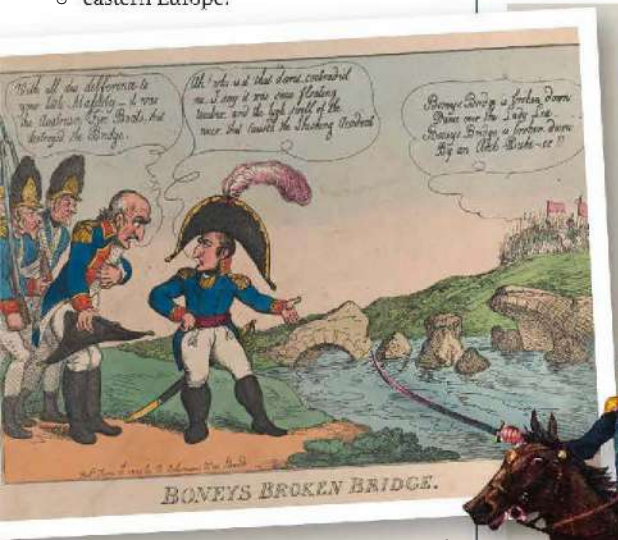
When Napoleon snatched catastrophe from the jaws of victory in Russia

Russia's Mikhail Kutuzov ordered his troops to stand firm and prevent the French from reaching Moscow

At first glance, the battle of Borodino – fought around a Russian village on 7 September 1812 – was one of Napoleon's great triumphs. It saw his forces inflict a defeat on the Imperial Russian Army and opened the door for his occupation of Moscow a week later. Yet this was a victory with a sting in its tail.

The battle had become inevitable when Russian general Mikhail Kutuzov ordered his retreating army to stand firm at Borodino in a last-ditch attempt to prevent Napoleon from seizing the Russian capital. The French emperor's attack on Russian lines triggered the bloodiest single day of the Napoleonic Wars – one in which, by midday, superior artillery was giving the French a critical advantage.

Then the French emperor made what many historians deem to be a fateful error. Perhaps unsure of the state of play on the battlefield, he refused to commit his 20,000-strong Imperial Guard to the fray. This decision, it's been argued, turned a potentially decisive victory into a narrow one. The Russian army was able to quit the battlefield relatively intact, rather than obliterated. It would go on to exact revenge on the French when deteriorating weather and diminishing supplies forced Napoleon into a retreat from Moscow later that autumn.



ABOVE: A cartoon mocks Napoleon's initial failure to cross the Danube in June 1809, shortly before his resounding victory at Wagram

RIGHT: Arthur Wellesley, then Marquess of Wellington, is shown leading his men at Vitoria

VITORIA

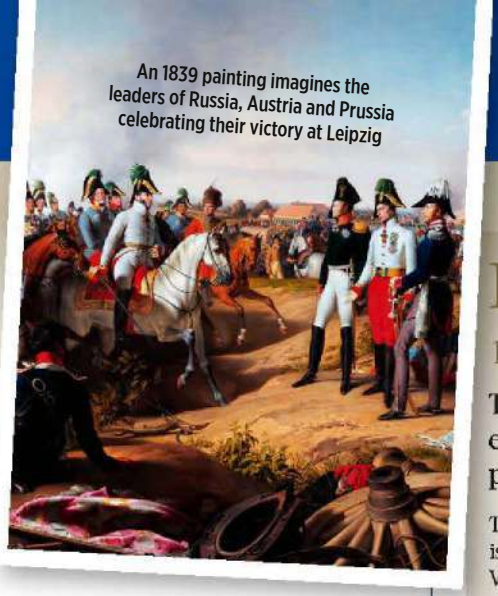
21 JUNE 1813

The decisive blow in Napoleon's battle for Spain and Portugal

The Napoleonic Wars was a conflict of many arenas, and one of those was the Iberian Peninsula. French troops had crossed the Pyrenees in 1807, later ousting the Spanish and Portuguese royal families and sparking the so called Peninsular War against Spanish, Portuguese and British forces. The stage was set for Arthur Wellesley then Marquess of Wellington to make his mark on history.

Wellington arrived in Iberia in the summer of 1808. He soon set about masterminding a number of victories over the French, yet a decisive blow had thus far eluded him. All that would change at the Basque city of Vitoria Gasteiz.

The battle was won in one bloody day. Wellington's 72,000 troops crossed the Zadorra River, forced the French back into Vitoria and then into full blown retreat towards Pamplona. Napoleon's power on the Iberian Peninsula was finally broken.



An 1839 painting imagines the leaders of Russia, Austria and Prussia celebrating their victory at Leipzig

LEIPZIG

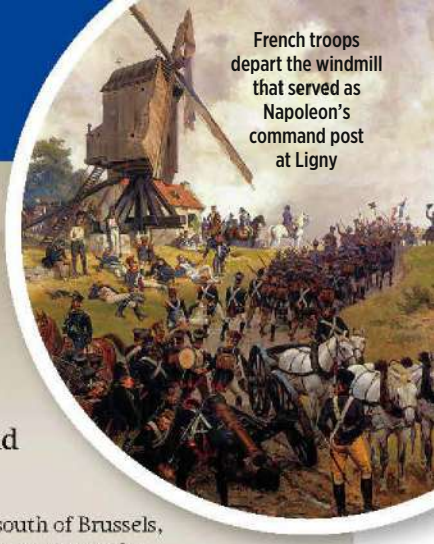
16–19 OCTOBER 1813

The so-called 'Battle of the Nations' that led to Napoleon's first exile

Napoleon's history-altering string of victories in the first decade of the 19th century must have seemed a distant memory when his forces faced a massive allied army in Leipzig in October 1813.

Having been ejected from Russia in 1812, and having failed to take the city of Berlin earlier that year, the French emperor was forced to confront a combined Prussian, Russian, Swedish and Austrian army in the Saxon city. What followed was the largest clash on European soil until World War I and a catastrophe for Napoleon.

Outnumbered and overwhelmed by his opponents, the emperor was forced to retreat to France, his designs on conquest in central and eastern Europe finally extinguished. By May 1814, he had abdicated and headed into exile on the Mediterranean island of Elba.



French troops depart the windmill that served as Napoleon's command post at Ligny

LIGNY

16 JUNE 1815

The site of the emperor's final – and pyrrhic – victory

The battle of Ligny, fought south of Brussels, is often overshadowed by events at nearby Waterloo. But this clash between French and Prussian forces Napoleon's final victory in battle played a critical role in his ultimate defeat.

Why? Because, courtesy of a series of miscommunications between the divided French commands, Napoleon was unable to deliver a crushing blow to the foundering Prussian army while he apparently had it at his mercy. As a result, after launching a counterattack, the Prussians were able to retreat to fight another day. That day would arrive just 48 hours later, when the Prussians made a telling contribution to the allies' climactic victory at Waterloo.

Reenactors recreate Napoleon's famous retreat from the battlefield at Waterloo. The real-life clash involved around 185,000 men across all sides

WATERLOO

18 JUNE 1815

The epochal battle that broke Napoleon's power for good

In March 1815, worrying news began washing up on British shores. After almost a year of exile on the island of Elba, Napoleon Bonaparte had returned to France at the head of an army of thousands, and was preparing to make war on his enemies. Europe's great nemesis would have to be faced in battle once again.

That battle, fought around the small town of Waterloo just south of Brussels on 18 June, would result in the crushing defeat of Napoleon and bring to an end the wars that bear his name. As such, it deserves its place in the pantheon of great European battles.

Wellington was very much an architect of this great victory. But this wasn't a battle won by British troops alone. Facing Napoleon's 72,000 soldiers was a 68,000-strong allied army containing British, Dutch, Belgian and German units, plus some 45,000 Prussians.

Thousands upon thousands of these men would fall during the battle. Waterloo was a brutal affair – "how anyone came alive out of that scene of carnage is strange", wrote one British survivor – and it could have gone either way. A decisive moment came at 7pm, almost eight hours into the battle, when Napoleon's elite Imperial Guard broke under withering British fire. Panic, infecting French lines like a contagion, sent them into headlong retreat.

Within weeks, Napoleon had quit France for the South Atlantic island of St Helena. This time his exile was permanent.

WORDS: SPENCER MIZEN

FROM BALLROOM TO BATTLEFIELD

Despite the masculine conventions of warfare, women from all walks of life played important roles in the conflict

Although the customs of 19th-century warfare meant that the Napoleonic Wars were a predominantly male affair, women were present both on the battlefields and in the corridors of power. Napoleon's government itself represented a compromise between the traditions of France's *ancien régime* and the republic. He ushered in a patriarchal social order, which took a dim view of educated women such as the great *salonnière* (salon host) Madame de Staël, who was forced into exile after her writings criticised Napoleon's policies. The regime's rapprochement with the Catholic Church also effectively reversed the progressive gains of the French Revolution in matters such as divorce.

Once emperor, Napoleon's fixation on dynastic power led to the presentation of an idealised imperial family in portraiture, and his consort, Joséphine de Beauharnais, became an object of fascination across Europe. As empress of the French, her appearance set trends for women in high society; she is said to have popularised the neoclassical dress style known as the 'empire line'.

The lives of ordinary women caught up in the conflict are less well-known. The wives of serving officers on both sides accompanied their spouses across war-torn Europe. Soldiers of the Grande Armée were followed by *cantinières* – women officially licenced as sutlers, but who sometimes waded directly into the heat of battle, distributing brandy and words of encouragement to the men. Moreover, their daughters often grew up alongside the regiments and thus gained a reputation for soaking up the martial culture's colourful language and grit.

MAIN: **Johanna Stegen's heroism is glorified in patriotic German poems**

BELOW: **Madame de Staël was an outspoken critic of Napoleon's authoritarianism**

COURAGE AND DIPLOMACY

In contrast, senior British officers believed that the presence of women sapped an army's discipline and impeded its progress. Even so, at least one soldier's wife proved an invaluable asset during the Peninsular War. During the Siege of Cádiz in 1810, British troops at the fortress of Matagorda endured a 30-hour bombardment by the French. Under heavy fire, one Mrs Reston obtained water from a well, carried sandbags for the repair of the battery, and dispensed ammunition and sustenance.

During the Waterloo campaign in June 1815, Charlotte, Duchess of Richmond kept morale high for officers with her iconic ball on the eve of the battle of Quatre-Bras. Described as the most famous in history, it was punctuated by news of Napoleon's advance nearby.

Elsewhere in the coalition, the extraordinary Friederike Krüger – already decorated with the Iron Cross – was notable as the only officially sanctioned female Prussian sergeant, seeing action at the battle of Ligny.

Another heroic German woman played a key role at the battle of Lüneberg on 2 April 1813. Learning that Prussian fusiliers were running low on ammunition, Johanna Stegen scooped up some in her apron and delivered it to soldiers on the front line.

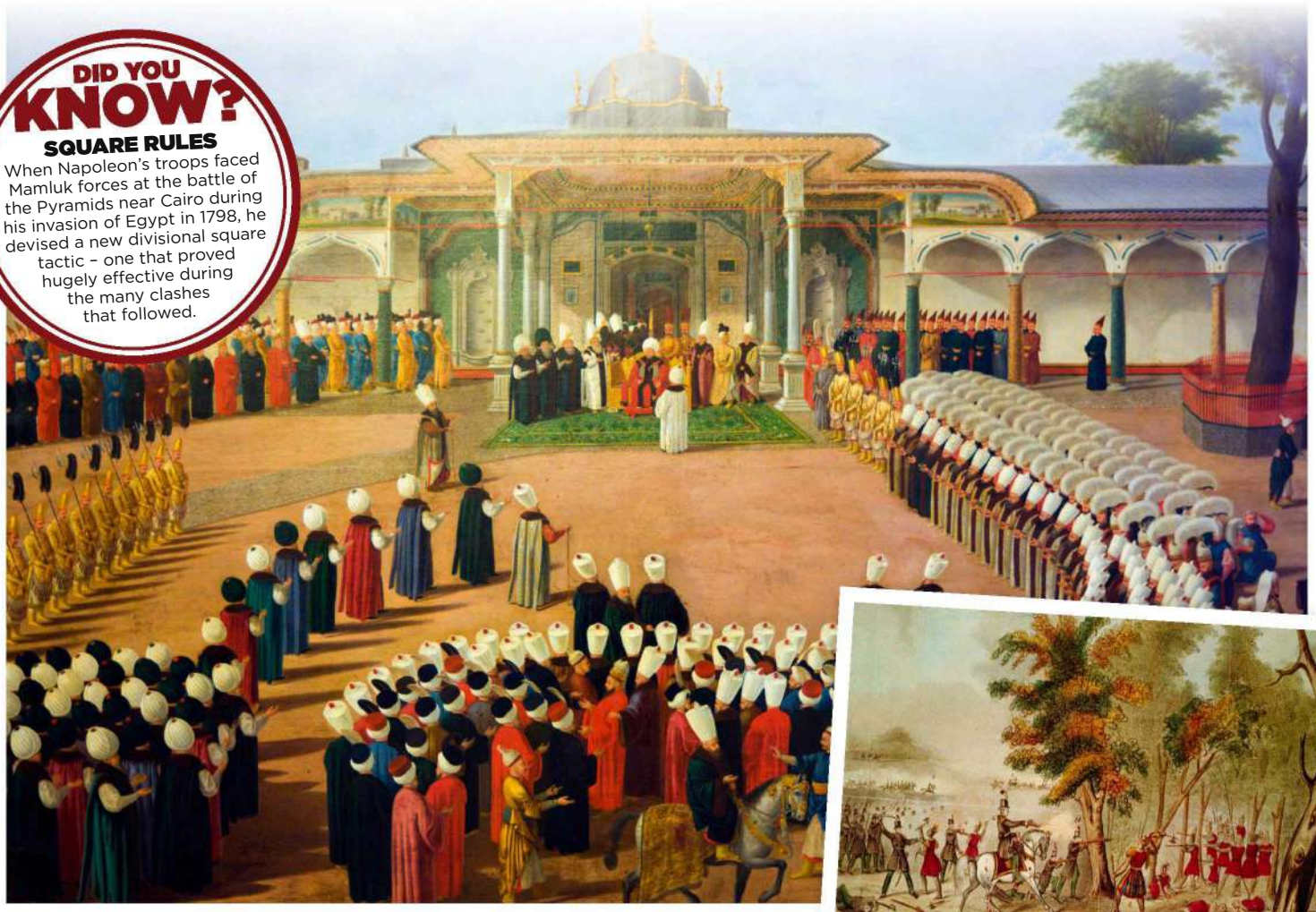
WORDS: DANNY BIRD

Napoleon's consort, Empress Joséphine, was one of the most famous women of the era

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X1

A CLASH OF EMPIRES

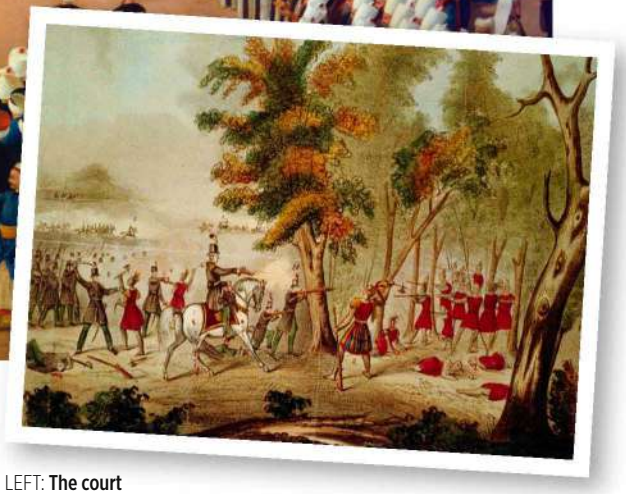
The opposing forces' status as imperial powers ensured that fighting spread to disparate, far-flung corners of the world. **Dr Michael Rapport** explores the surprising global impact of the Napoleonic Wars



DID YOU KNOW?

SQUARE RULES

When Napoleon's troops faced Mamluk forces at the battle of the Pyramids near Cairo during his invasion of Egypt in 1798, he devised a new divisional square tactic – one that proved hugely effective during the many clashes that followed.



ALAMY X2

ABOVE LEFT: **The court of the Ottoman sultan Selim III, whose vast empire included Egypt – invaded by a young Napoleon in 1798**

ABOVE RIGHT: **US, British and Native American forces engage in battle during the War of 1812 – a North American extension of the Napoleonic Wars**

The devastating conflicts since dubbed 'world wars' were, of course, distinctly 20th-century struggles. Yet, though the Napoleonic Wars were rooted in the imperial battles of the 18th century, in some ways they also anticipated those terrible later clashes.

To a great extent, they represented a classic clash of early modern empires. Although Europe witnessed the bloodiest of the carnage, the involvement of Britain, France, the Netherlands, Spain and Portugal – all maritime and imperial powers – ensured that fighting ranged across the globe. The European dimensions of the war – on the continent itself and overseas – have, of course, been the focus of historical study. But more genuinely global approaches have recently begun to explore how these struggles were entangled with the wider context and environment of the regions involved.

Napoleon's invasion of Egypt in 1798, for example, interlocked with the politics and culture of the Middle East and the Ottoman empire. When the Franco-British rivalry in India ignited, the conflict was shaped by the relative strengths, weaknesses and aims of the Indian powers concerned. The Latin American wars of independence, which began in 1808 and were triggered by the Napoleonic Wars, were shaped by local conditions. The fighting in North America during the War of 1812 may have helped to entrench US and Canadian identities, but they also involved Native Americans, whose motives were very different from those of the Europeans.

The war was globalised, in other words, because it became intertwined with longer-term rivalries and conflicts across the world – the consequences of which are explored over the next four pages. ▶

THE MIDDLE EAST

Napoleonic-era power politics extended to Egypt and beyond

"May God cause the upheaval in France to spread like syphilis to the enemies of the empire… Amen." So wrote Ahmed Efendi, privy secretary to Ottoman Sultan Selim III, in January 1792. His prayer was answered over the following few years, as the French Revolutionary Wars raged across most of Europe, leaving the Ottomans in peace.

That changed in July 1798, when a French army under Napoleon invaded Egypt, then part of the Ottoman empire, mauling the famous Mamluk cavalry at the battle of the Pyramids and taking Cairo. Once the Ottomans had been forced into the wars against Revolutionary France, Middle Eastern politics were never again entirely absent from the global strategies of the European belligerents.

Napoleon's army was cut off from Europe in August 1798, when Nelson's fleet shattered its French opponents at Aboukir Bay, off the coast of Egypt. In February 1799, Napoleon sought to fight his way back to Europe and forestall a Turkish counter-attack by invading Palestine and Syria. His advance ground to a bloody halt at Acre, which held out – supported by Turkish and British naval forces. Ravaged by plague, the French trailed back into Egypt. That August, Napoleon slipped out of the country, and seized power in France with his Brumaire coup in November. His deserted army clung on in Egypt until a Turkish-British expedition retook Cairo in June 1801.

IMPERIAL THREAT

The French invasion was alarming to the British because it threatened their own empire in India. From that point, the Ottoman empire would be entangled in the Napoleonic Wars, as the imperial rivals – France, Britain, Russia and Austria – sought to assert their strategic interests. When Selim III yielded in 1806 to French pressure to favour French naval access to the Black Sea, the British launched attacks on the Turks in the Dardanelles and Egypt – but were defeated.

Meanwhile, the Russians sought to expand at the Ottomans' expense, invading through both the Balkans and the Caucasus. That war lasted until Tsar Alexander I, facing the prospect of Napoleon's invasion of his own country, negotiated a peace in May 1812. The Ottomans empire's neighbour, the Persian empire, became a diplomatic battleground as the three European powers vied to project their strategic interests: the Russians to expand their empire southwards, the French to threaten the other two, and the British to ensure the security of India.

The importance of the Middle East was also cultural. Napoleon brought with him to Egypt a team of scholars who, among other things, laid the foundations for modern Egyptology. The discovery by French soldiers of the Rosetta Stone led to the deciphering of hieroglyphics, and the academics produced a series of publications that became famous as the *Description of Egypt*.

Comparing Egypt's past glories with its allegedly impoverished present made the Middle East seem not only different from the west but backwards, providing a justification for European imperialism.

ABOVE LEFT: **Napoleon's victory at the battle of the Pyramids in 1798 brought the Ottoman empire into the wars**

TOP RIGHT: **The French navy was defeated by the British at Aboukir Bay a short while later**

ABOVE RIGHT: **Ottoman sultan Selim III hoped that unrest in France would weaken his European rivals**

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X1

ASIA

Europeans exploited their eastern allies in imperial struggles

Inevitably, as imperial frictions between the European belligerents exploded, fighting in the Napoleonic Wars spilled over into Asia.

The most important battleground was India, where the long-running Franco-British struggle was intermeshed with the crisis of the Mughal empire, which had been steadily unravelling since the late 17th century, and with rivalries between Indian states, the most powerful of which were the Hindu Maratha confederacy, Hyderabad and Mysore.

The British East India Company held sway over territories that included Bengal (where the governor-general sat in Calcutta, now called Kolkata), Bombay (Mumbai) and Madras (Chennai). With its own armed forces and tax-raising powers, it was virtually a state in its own right. The French, though defeated heavily in India during the Seven Years' War (1756–63), still had viable and potentially rich footholds in its five main comptoirs (trading ports), chief of which was Pondichéry (now Puducherry).

Both European powers relied heavily on Indian allies, engaging in a system of 'subsidiary treaties' by which Indian rulers secured military support in return for payments of money or territory. In this way, British military and political presence slowly expanded in South Asia, but the Napoleonic Wars also provided opportunities for full-frontal conquest.

The French invasion of Egypt in 1798 seemed to pose a direct threat to India – not least because Tipu Sultan, ruler of the militarily powerful southern kingdom of Mysore, had entered into an alliance with the French. In May 1799, an army of British and Indian troops stormed the citadel at Seringapatam (Srirangapatna), killing Tipu Sultan, the 'Tiger of Mysore', and effectively annexing the kingdom.

THE BLOODIEST BATTLE

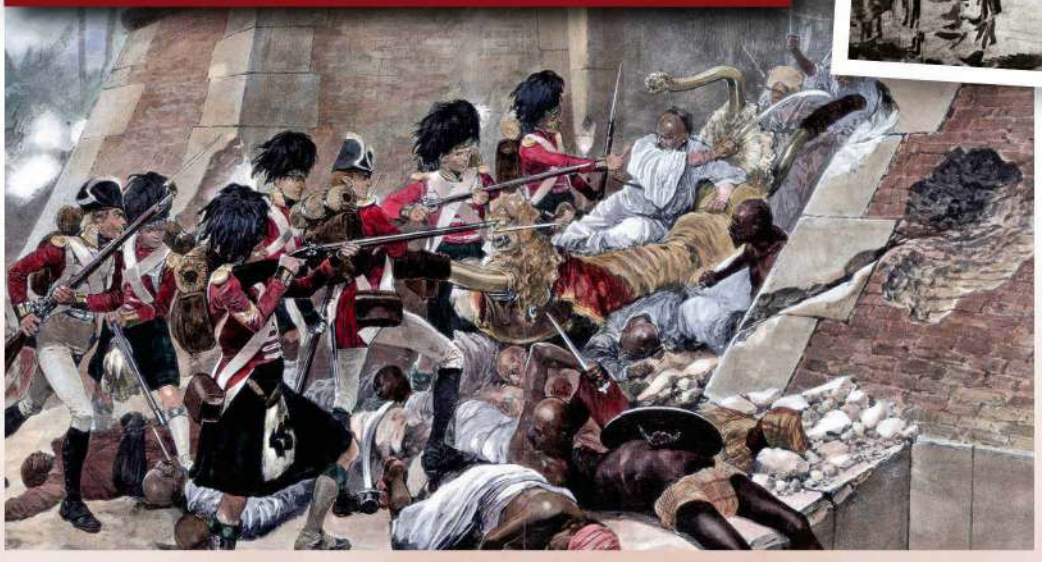
Next came the Marathas in central India. A small French presence provided an excuse, but the real reason was the formidable power wielded by the confederacy. During the Anglo-Maratha War of 1803–05, Arthur Wellesley, later Duke of Wellington, won his bloodiest battle at Assaye (1803).

However, a British advance against the Maratha prince Holkar proved disastrous by July 1804, and a bloody siege of the formidable fortress of Bharatpur was repulsed in February 1805. These defeats compelled the East India Company to negotiate a peace with the Marathas, who would not bend to British domination until they were defeated in 1817–18.

The British did, however, secure the intercontinental shipping route between Britain and Asia. In January 1806, they managed to wrest control of the Cape Colony in southern Africa from the Dutch, who were allied to the French. Then, in 1810, they took the Île Bourbon (now Réunion) then Mauritius, partly to expel French privateers who raided British shipping on the Indian Ocean. In 1811, the British also began seizing the Dutch-controlled spice islands of Indonesia.

Yet the Asian capacity to resist European incursions was still vigorous. In 1793, China's Qianlong emperor rebuffed a British mission seeking privileged commercial relations. In 1805, the Japanese Shogunate dismissed a Russian attempt by Nikolai Rezanov to prise that country open to the tsar's trade. It would take the shock of new, industrialised military technology for European and Asian capabilities to diverge dramatically, and before the former would foist themselves decisively on the latter.

"THE NAPOLEONIC WARS PROVIDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR FULL-FRONTAL WAR IN INDIA"



BELOW, TOP: **Britain's attempts to establish trade privileges with China's Qianlong emperor (*also shown bottom right*) proved unsuccessful**

BELOW LEFT: **An illustration depicts British and Indian troops killing the Tipu Sultan in 1799**

NORTH AMERICA

The clash of European powers inflamed conflict in the US

On 3 December 1805, William Clark carved his name and the words "By Land from the U. States in 1804 & 1805" into a tree on North America's Pacific coast. In May 1804, Clark had set out with Meriwether Lewis on an expedition commissioned by President Jefferson to explore the regions west of the Mississippi acquired by the US from France in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803.

France had originally acquired this vast, funnel-shaped territory – extending from the Mississippi Delta to Canada and, at its broadest, to the western border of Montana – in 1800 as the result of its alliance with Spain. Napoleon's original plan had been to exploit the region's food and raw materials to supply France's Caribbean slave plantations.

The jewel of the French empire, Saint-Domingue, had earlier erupted into insurrection in 1791. That uprising of enslaved Africans had been inspired by a combination of oppression, their Vodou religion and African political ideologies and identities, and – among leaders such as Toussaint Louverture – the French Revolution. Three years after the insurrection erupted, in 1794, France abolished slavery. Napoleon restored it in 1802, and the insurgents of Saint-Domingue – renaming their country Haiti – resisted, defeating a force led by Napoleon's brother-in-law.

By 1803, it was clear that France was on the cusp of losing its richest colony, so Louisiana lost its primary purpose. Napoleon also desperately needed funds for a planned invasion of Britain. American negotiators sent to Paris to secure free commercial access through New Orleans were surprised to be greeted with an offer of the entire territory, for the knock-down price of 4 cents an acre. The deal was announced in July 1803.

This westward leap was not universally welcomed within the US, with people in the northern 'free' states worried that slavery would spread into the new territory. It also increased border tensions with the British in Canada, and war exploded in 1812, over the US-Canadian frontier and over the British pressing of American sailors into the Royal Navy.

MAIN: **British delegate Lord Gambier shakes the hand of US leader John Quincy Adams after signing of the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812**

INSET: **Napoleon's authorisation for the sale of the Louisiana Territory fuelled tensions with Britain**

Initial US attacks on Canada in autumn 1812 ended in failure, and the British exploited their naval supremacy by blockading American ports and mounting coastal raids. These included an assault on Washington, where government buildings – most famously the White House – were burned in August 1814.

That conflict ended with negotiations in Ghent and a treaty signed on Christmas Eve, 1814. News of the peace reached the US too late to stop a battle at New Orleans on 8 January 1815, when US forces under Andrew Jackson repulsed a British assault on the city.

One legacy of the War of 1812 was that it crystallised US and Canadian identities. It was, though, a tragedy for Native Americans. Since 1808, the Shawnee chief Tecumseh had forged a tribal alliance to defend Native American independence. He helped the British take Detroit in August 1812 but, when US forces swept the Royal Navy from Lake Erie in September 1813, it became harder for Tecumseh to protect tribal lands, and he was later killed. The Native American alliance fell apart, losing its lands to the US.

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X2

SOUTH AMERICA

War in Europe triggered a crisis in the Spanish and Portuguese empires

The most striking global consequence of the Napoleonic Wars was independence for much of South America.

At the turn of the 19th century, most of the continent was part of the Spanish empire; Brazil was ruled by the Portuguese, with a few other territories held by the French, British and Dutch.

The European war triggered – but did not cause – the Latin American wars of independence. These flowed from longer-term efforts by the Spanish monarchy to strengthen its grip on its colonies, provoking a backlash among creole elites, and from discontent among the colonies' merchants chafing against the Spanish monopoly of trade. A rebellion in what is now Peru in 1780–83 (led by Túpac Amaru until 1781) against Spanish reforms, taxation and the repression of indigenous and mestizo (mixed-race) people had also shaken Spanish rule to the core.

Ferdinand VII's restoration to the Spanish throne fuelled revolution in the Latin American colonies

The wars were sparked when Napoleon seized the Spanish King Ferdinand VII and the royal family in 1808, and tried to take over Spain. Resistance to French rule culminated in the Cortes (parliament) of Cádiz, which passed a liberal constitution in 1812. This declared that free men in any Spanish-ruled domain were citizens – including creole, mixed race and native men in the colonies, but not women or slaves. This attempt to create a liberal, imperial monarchy came too late to quell the first stirrings of independence movements.

INDEPENDENT IDEAS

In Latin America, royal officials were squeezed out by creole elites who, as in Spain, formed committees or juntas, initially to defend the colonies against the French. Yet though the Latin American colonies sent delegates to the Cortes and helped shape the Spanish constitution, these provincial committees frequently clashed with the central junta in Spain. In the process, they also began fitfully to shape claims for independence.

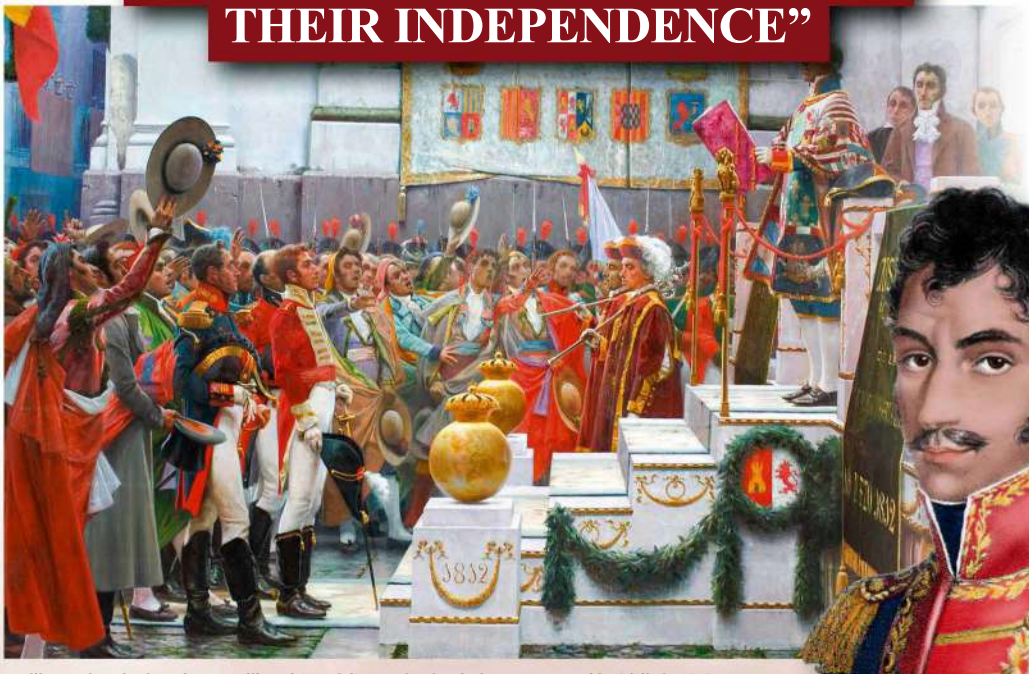
The first declarations of independence came in 1810. Positions hardened when, at the end of the Peninsular War in 1814, King Ferdinand VII was restored to the Spanish throne and repudiated the 1812 constitution. This restoration of the absolute monarchy accelerated the imperial crisis as, one by one, Latin American states declared and fought for independence in bitter wars. Perhaps most notably, the victory of Venezuelan independence leader Simón Bolívar at the battle of Boyacá in 1819 led to the creation of Gran Colombia, a state encompassing much of northern South America and part of Central America.

By 1825, many of Spain's American colonies, from Chile to Mexico, were independent republics that soon abolished slavery and ended the colonial caste system based on race.

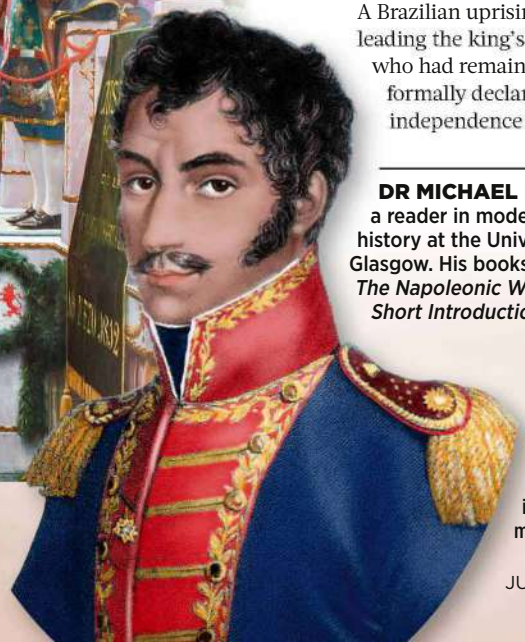
Portuguese-ruled Brazil also followed a path partially conditioned by events in Napoleonic Europe. When the French invaded Portugal in 1807, the British helped the Portuguese royal family evacuate to Brazil, and Rio de Janeiro became the functioning capital of the Portuguese empire under the prince regent, Dom João. At the end of the war, Dom João stayed in Brazil, and in 1815, the two countries were declared to be a union of equals. However, a liberal revolution in Portugal in 1820 demanded that Dom João (by now King João VI) return to Lisbon, and in 1821, sought to reimpose Portuguese sovereignty over Brazil.

A Brazilian uprising ensued, leading the king's son, Pedro – who had remained in Brazil – to formally declare the country's independence in 1822.

"ONE BY ONE, LATIN AMERICAN STATES DECLARED THEIR INDEPENDENCE"



An illustration depicts the new, liberal Spanish constitution being announced in Cádiz in 1812. The act wasn't enough to quell the independence movements emerging in Latin America

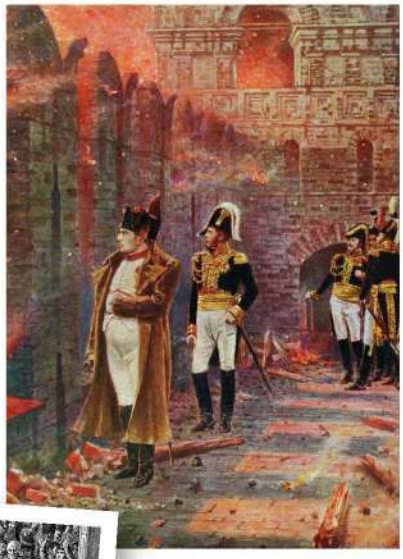


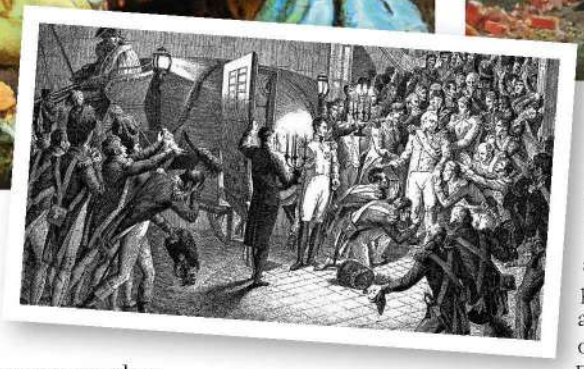
Simón Bolívar was the most famous figurehead of South America's independence movements

DR MICHAEL RAPPORT is a reader in modern European history at the University of Glasgow. His books include *The Napoleonic Wars: A Very Short Introduction* (OUP, 2013)

NAPOLEON'S LASTING LEGACY

France's emperor may have been humbled at Waterloo, but he continued to cast a long shadow, says **Dr Zack White**





In June 1812, Napoleon invaded Russia with 600,000 men. It was a disastrous campaign that saw up to 90 per cent of them become casualties. Plagued with supply issues and heat exhaustion, an indecisive battle at Borodino saw Napoleon march into Moscow. However, the Russians had burned much of the city to the ground, making it unsuitable for Napoleon's force to spend the winter there. In a gruelling winter retreat, the emperor eventually made it back to safety, but his army had been destroyed. It was a major step in shattering the illusion of Napoleon's invincibility.

Although he managed to raise a new army with staggering speed, other nations in Europe sensed that France was weak. This was their opportunity to redress their grievances with the peace settlements Napoleon had previously dictated to them. Defeated again at the battle of Leipzig in 1813, and refusing to accept the peace terms offered by the allies, by 1814 Napoleon was fighting a brilliant but ultimately futile campaign in northern France to try and save his empire. In April he was forced by his senior military commanders to accept that continuing the war was pointless, and he abdicated. Everyone thought that the Napoleonic Wars were over. They were wrong.

LAST ROLL OF THE DICE

After abdicating, Napoleon was exiled to the Mediterranean island of Elba, which he was allowed to rule as a mini kingdom. However, the allies quickly began squabbling among themselves as they no longer had the threat of Napoleon to unify them. Watching this unfold, short of money, and bored with his new life in exile, Napoleon made one final, desperate roll of the dice. He snuck away from Elba, evaded the British blockade that was meant to keep him there, and landed in southern France with his bodyguard of just 1,000 men. His plan was simple: reinstall himself as emperor, and rule France.

ABOVE LEFT: **The battle of Borodino, fought on 7 September 1812, was the bloodiest clash of Napoleon's failed Russian campaign**

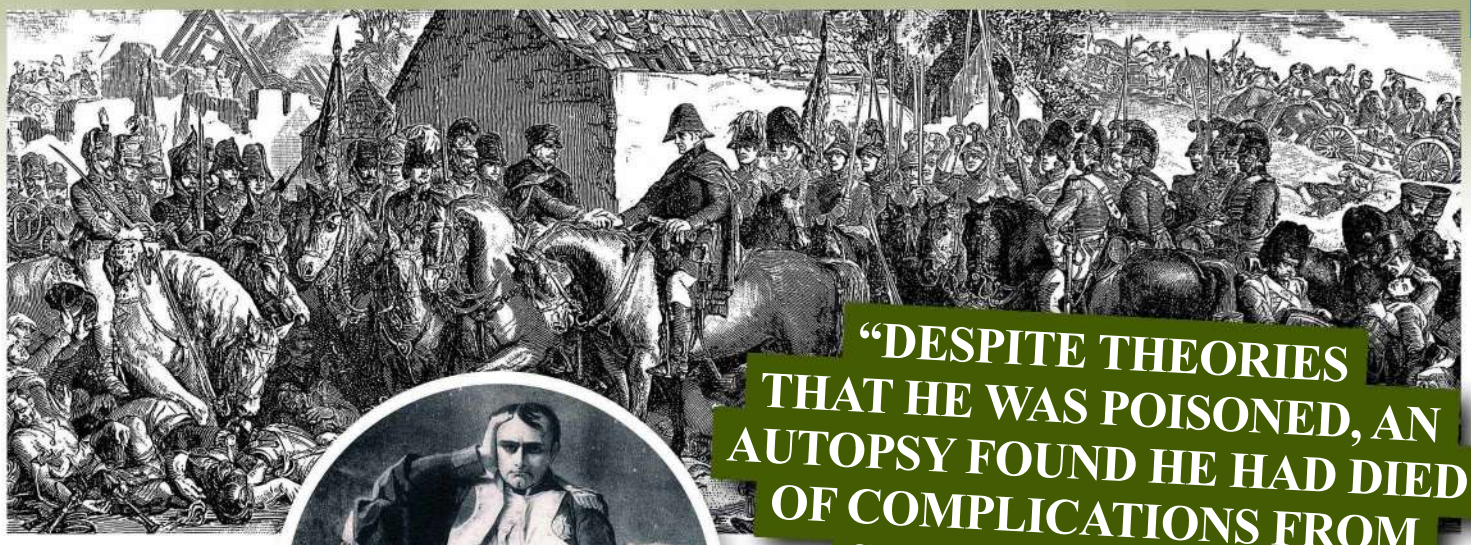
ABOVE CENTRE: **Napoleon's downfall led to the restoration of the monarchy in France; here, Louis XVIII is depicted upon taking the throne**

ABOVE RIGHT: **An illustration imagines Napoleon watching the burning of Moscow – a scorched earth tactic of Russia's doing**

Amazingly, Napoleon's gamble seemed to pay off. Disgruntled, demobilised veterans flocked to his side, as his return meant the prospect of employment in a new army, and the return of the 'glory days' of the French empire. All the forces that the new French king Louis XVIII sent south to arrest Napoleon defected to the emperor. Louis fled to Belgium, and Napoleon marched into Paris in what was effectively a military coup.

Incensed that Napoleon had broken the terms of the peace agreement, the allies unilaterally agreed to declare war on him personally (they didn't recognise him as the legitimate ruler of France anymore as he had ousted the French king). Short of time, and with limited options, Napoleon struck at the force nearest him – a combined British, Dutch and Prussian force commanded by the Duke of Wellington and Prussia's Marshal Blucher. At the battle of Waterloo (18 June 1815), and in a textbook example of coordinated coalition warfare, Wellington held up Napoleon's forces while waiting for reinforcements from Blucher to help him crush Napoleon's army. With

GETTY IMAGES X7



"DESPITE THEORIES THAT HE WAS POISONED, AN AUTOPSY FOUND HE HAD DIED OF COMPLICATIONS FROM STOMACH CANCER"

his armies defeated, Napoleon abdicated for a second time, and ultimately surrendered to the British.

A COMPLEX LEGACY

The allies learnt their lesson from Napoleon's first exile and placed him under effective house arrest on the remote island of St Helena in the South Atlantic. As Napoleon's health failed, he spent his final years dictating his thoughts on his life and career to the handful of supporters who had followed him into exile.

Napoleon died in May 1821. Despite conspiracy theories that he was poisoned, an autopsy found that he had died of complications from stomach cancer. Although initially buried on St Helena, in 1840 Napoleon's body was moved to a spectacular mausoleum at the Invalides in Paris.

TOP: **The Duke of Wellington is depicted meeting Marshal Blucher in the wake of Waterloo**

ABOVE: **A portrait shows the emperor in exile on St Helena**

The legacy of Napoleon's life, and the Napoleonic Wars, is vast. Although it had represented a step backwards for women's rights, his Napoleonic Code remains the basis of the French legal system. The Code was also used as the basis of many constitutions around the world, especially in South America. The Legion d'Honneur, which he created, is still the highest honour awarded to French citizens.

In some ways, though, his refusal to accept peace settlements in 1813 and 1814 meant that the clock was wound back on some of his – and the French Revolution's – achievements. In the 1815 Treaty of Paris, France lost all the land it had gained since 1792. The monarchy was restored in France, and the country had to pay reparations. The triumph of the autocratic allied powers meant that their system of government was once again able to quash many of the ideas of democracy that had arisen during the French Revolution. While Britain was not autocratic, its pivotal role in defeating France, and dominance of the seas, left it perfectly placed to expand the British empire over the next century.

Yet Napoleon's final defeat also ushered in an era of relative peace and stability in Europe. The allies agreed to embrace the 'congress system', committing to meeting to discuss any grievances in future. The European powers would not be drawn into a major conflict again until the outbreak of the Crimean War in 1853.

Initially buried on St Helena, Napoleon was later reinterred in a mausoleum in Paris (*above*). The French capital is also home to casts of his death mask, such as the example shown left

DR ZACK WHITE is a historian, battlefield guide and host of *The Napoleonic Wars Podcast*. He is also the chair of the Napoleonic & Revolutionary War Graves Charity (*nrwgc.com*)

GET HOOKED

LISTEN
Dr Zack White discusses the Duke of Wellington's army on a recent episode of the *HistoryExtra* podcast. Listen now at *historyextra.com/wellington-army-pod*

MEET THE EXPERT

DR MICHAEL RAPPORT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING THE NAPOLEONIC WARS

Symbols, memories and commemorations of the wars continue to be used for political purposes

DR MICHAEL RAPPORT is a reader in modern European history at the University of Glasgow and the author of several books, including *The Napoleonic Wars: A Very Short Introduction* (OUP, 2013). To hear Dr Rapport answer popular questions about the Napoleonic Wars on the *HistoryExtra* podcast, scan the QR code shown above or visit *historyextra.com/napoleonic-wars-pod*

Until World War I, the clashes that ravaged Europe between 1803 and 1815 were remembered in Britain as the 'Great War'. In one mournful way, the two conflicts bear direct comparison: the numbers of European dead were proportionately the same in both. In their time, the Napoleonic Wars – along with the French Revolutionary Wars that preceded them – provided the ultimate measure of European (and, indeed, worldwide) conflict.

In Europe, they also served as a warning against the failures of the international order to prevent war and revolution. Globally, these wars shaped the modern world by creating the conditions for the emergence of new nation states in the Caribbean and Latin America. Haiti won its independence from Napoleonic France in 1804, and the movement to secure Latin American independence from Spain was launched in earnest after 1808.

Across Europe, too, these wars provided a source of national commemoration. This sprang both from a sincere popular desire to remember the dead, and from governments and nationalist movements seeking to harness public memory for political purposes. Many of the symbols that today are part of the landscape of national identities in Europe date from the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. For example, the black-red-gold flag of Germany is derived from the uniforms and insignia of the Lützowian Free Corps, a student militia that fought in 1813–14, while the Italian tricolore was originally the flag of the Cispadane Republic, set up under French auspices in 1796.

Anniversaries of major events became moments for national or local reflection or triumphalism. Hence the uprising of May 1808 is celebrated in Madrid, the 1812 battle of Borodino is commemorated in Russia, the clash at Leipizig in 1813 is marked in Germany, and of course Waterloo is remembered as a milestone moment in Britain. These symbols, memories and commemorations continue to be used for political purposes.

These impacts of the Napoleonic Wars – shaping the emergence of our modern world, and exploitation of their memories as a 'usable past' – are two good reasons for robust and critical study of the conflict. Recent scholarship has focused precisely on their global dimensions and connections. It's also examined the role of women, of resistance to slavery and military occupation, and of specific groups – peasant insurgents, bandits, deserters and so on – whose experiences were so varied.

Another important area of study explores how different countries and localities have commemorated the wars, and how their memory has been deployed by politicians and social movements. Research into the material culture of the wars – by looking at artefacts and through battlefield archaeology, for example – continues to balance the written record, providing us with fresh understanding both of the events themselves and of memories of them. These approaches, and other historical work, ensure that such understanding will remain critical, fresh, nuanced and, perhaps above all, darkly fascinating.

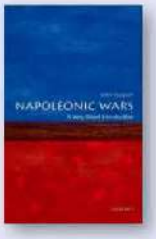
ALAMY X1

Prince Charles (now Charles III) unveils a memorial at Hougoumont, on the bicentenary of the battle of Waterloo

GET HOOKED

Learn more about the Napoleonic Wars with our pick of key resources

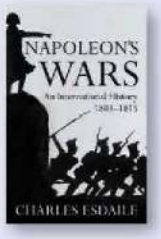
BOOKS



The Napoleonic Wars: A Very Short Introduction

By Dr Michael Rapport (OUP, 2013)

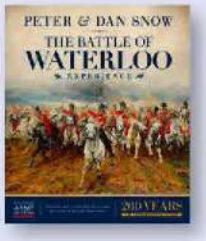
Dr Michael Rapport discusses the origins and course of the Napoleonic Wars, exploring topics like battlefield tactics and weaponry, as well as the social and political impact of the wars on the world today.



Napoleon's Wars: An International History, 1803–15

By Prof Charles Esdaile (Penguin, 2007)

This book by Prof Charles Esdaile offers a wide-ranging, engaging narrative of the Napoleonic Wars, explaining how different countries fought, why they made the choices they did, and the overall effects of their decisions.



The Battle of Waterloo Experience

By Peter and Dan Snow (Welbeck Publishing, 2015)

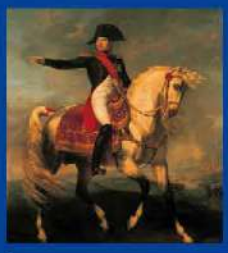
In association with the National Army Museum, well-known military historians, journalists and broadcasters Peter and Dan Snow tell the story of one of the world's most famous and important battles.

In These Times: Living in Britain through Napoleon's Wars

By Prof Jenny Uglow (Faber & Faber, 2014)

Prof Jenny Uglow follows the gripping back-and-forth of the first truly global war, examining its impact on the British public – from the satires of Gillray and Rowlandson, to the voices of Austen and Wordsworth.

ON THE BBC



BBC RADIO 4

◀ Start the Week: Napoleon

bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04lpsbs

Tom Sutcliffe discusses Napoleon with historians Dr Andrew Roberts, Dr Sudhir Hazareesingh and Prof Jenny Uglow, while musicologist Gavin Plumley looks at Schubert's life in post-Napoleonic Vienna.

BBC RADIO 4

◀ In Our Time: The Congress of Vienna

bbc.co.uk/programmes/b098bt3h

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the peace plan for Europe after the Napoleonic Wars, and how the continent's major powers set about redrawing the borders so that no one nation would be dominant.

BBC RADIO 3

◀ The Essay: Napoleon and Me

bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01p6v59

Five people, including writers Andrea Stuart and Adam Nicolson, discuss their personal fascination with Napoleon – from their interest in Napoleonic songs, to their admiration for Joséphine Bonaparte.

ONLINE AND AUDIO

▶ For podcasts, quizzes and more on Napoleon and the Napoleonic Wars, scan the QR code shown here or visit *historyextra.com/napoleon-bonaparte*

▶ The Napoleonic Wars: everything you wanted to know

Dr Michael Rapport tackles listener questions about the 19th-century conflicts that tore Europe apart and had repercussions across the globe. Listen at *bit.ly/3MynYkM*

▶ Disciplining the "scum of the Earth"

Dr Zack White details the crimes and punishments in the Duke of Wellington's army during the Napoleonic Wars. Listen at *bit.ly/3zPkyTa*

▶ Waterloo 200 special

Julian Humphrys and Prof Tim Blanning discuss Napoleon's final defeat in this podcast episode from 2015. Listen at *bit.ly/41kh0nS*

WATCH

War and Peace

(available on BBC iPlayer)

In this 2016 adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's timeless novel, three young people experience life, love and loss against the epic backdrop of Russia's wars with Napoleon.

John Merriman on Napoleon

(available at *bit.ly/YaleNapoleon*)

This free Yale University lecture by the late Prof John Merriman looks at Bonaparte's Corsican background, his later image, and whether or not he inaugurated the era of 'total war'.

GETTY IMAGES X4, BBC X1

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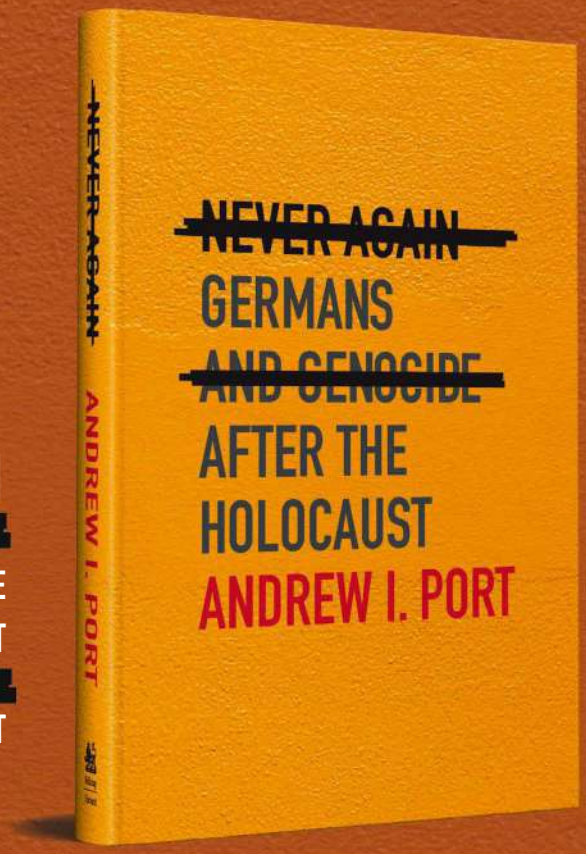

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MIND-BOGGLING HISTORICAL FACTS

The past is often stranger than we could possibly imagine – studded with surprising coincidences and pivotal moments that occurred concurrently in disparate parts of the globe...

WOOLLY MAMMOTHS SURVIVED INTO THE AGE OF THE PYRAMIDS

Contrary to the popular belief that mammoths died out around 10,000 years ago, after the end of the last ice age, small numbers of the huge mammals survived in several locations for another 6,000 years or so. In fact, a population of woolly mammoths roamed Wrangel Island, in the Arctic Ocean off Siberia, as recently as 3,700 years ago – centuries after the construction of both the pyramids of Giza and Stonehenge.

ALAMY X1, GETTY X2

DID YOU KNOW?

MIND THE GAP

On its first day of service in January 1863, some 30,000 passengers travelled on London's new underground Metropolitan Line. The 3.5-mile (5.6km) journey from Paddington to Farringdon could be completed in 18 minutes.

CLEOPATRA LIVED NEARER IN TIME TO THE FIRST MOON LANDING THAN THE BUILDING OF THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA

Incredible as it might sound, Cleopatra (c69–30 BC), the last active ruler of ancient Egypt, was born more than 2,400 years after the completion of Giza's three main pyramids (constructed c2550–2490 BC). In 1969, 'only' two millennia after her death, US astronaut Neil Armstrong took his first momentous steps on the Moon.

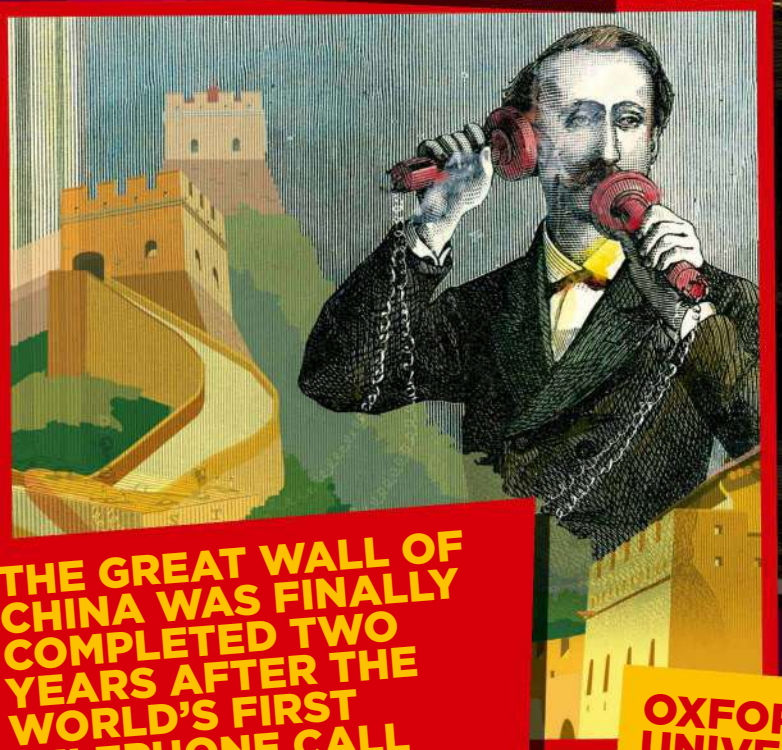
ALAMY X2, GETTY X10

YOU COULD TAKE THE LONDON UNDERGROUND TO WATCH ENGLAND'S LAST PUBLIC HANGING

On 26 May 1868, Irish republican activist Michael Barrett, convicted for his role in a bombing, was hanged outside Newgate Prison in what proved to be England's last public execution. Many of the thousands who gathered to watch the grisly event may have travelled there by Tube, on the Metropolitan Line that had opened five years earlier. Newgate was just a 10-minute stroll from Farringdon Station.

JACK THE RIPPER WAS STILL MAKING HEADLINES WHEN NINTENDO WAS FOUNDED

Most people know Nintendo as a leading light of late 20th-century video game culture, producing hits ranging from *Super Mario Bros* to *The Legend of Zelda*. But the company was actually founded in Kyoto, Japan, in 1889 to produce handmade *hanafuda* playing cards. In England that same year, the notorious serial killer dubbed Jack the Ripper was still making newspaper headlines, the fifth murder attributed to 'Jack' having been committed the previous November.



THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA WAS FINALLY COMPLETED TWO YEARS AFTER THE WORLD'S FIRST TELEPHONE CALL

The Great Wall of China, one of the planet's most famous artificial structures, was largely built over a long period extending from the third century BC to the 17th century AD, and eventually stretched 13,171 miles (21,196km). Despite its ancient origins, though, construction work on the Wall wasn't actually completed until 1878, during the late Qing dynasty. Two years earlier, Alexander Graham Bell had catapulted the world into a new era of modernity with his groundbreaking invention: the telephone. On 10 March 1876, he made the world's first phone call, to his assistant: "Mr Watson. Come here. I want to see you."

OXFORD UNIVERSITY IS OLDER THAN THE AZTEC EMPIRE

The culture now known as Aztec may seem like ancient history, but the origin of this Mesoamerican empire is usually dated to 1325, with the founding of the capital city, Tenochtitlan (the site of modern-day Mexico City). By contrast, teaching at Oxford University – which still welcomes hundreds of students every year – began in one form or another as early as 1096. University, Balliol and Merton Colleges were all founded between 1249 and 1264.

MACHU PICCHU AND THE SISTINE CHAPEL CEILING FRESCOES WERE FINISHED WITHIN A CENTURY OF EACH OTHER

The Italian Renaissance and the Inca empire aren't often associated with each other, yet both were phenomena of the same era. The Peruvian mountaintop citadel of Machu Picchu was completed around 1450, at the height of the empire's power, and was probably occupied until c1530. More than 6,500 miles away, as Inca emperors continued to enjoy their mountaintop retreat, in 1512 Italian artist Michelangelo was putting the finishing touches to his frescoes on the Vatican's Sistine Chapel ceiling.

COCA-COLA IS OLDER THAN THE EIFFEL TOWER

On 8 May 1886, Dr John Pemberton sold the first glass of Coca-Cola at Jacobs' Pharmacy in Atlanta, charging five cents a glass. Nearly three years later, on 31 March 1889, construction of the 300-metre-high Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, was completed.

DID YOU KNOW?

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

Abraham Lincoln was shot and killed on 14 April 1865, a few hours after he had signed legislation to create the US Secret Service. It wasn't until 1901, however, that the Secret Service was assigned to presidential protection duties.

A SAMURAI COULD HAVE SENT A FAX TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Perhaps the most bizarre of all the facts gathered here is that there was a 22-year window during which a Japanese samurai could, in theory, have sent a fax to US president Abraham Lincoln. Japan's samurai class existed until the end of the feudal system in 1868; the electric printing telegraph (a forerunner of the digital fax machine) was patented in 1843; and Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in 1865.

STAR WARS WAS RELEASED IN THE SAME YEAR THAT FRANCE CARRIED OUT ITS LAST EXECUTION BY GUILLOTINE

Although a punishment most widely associated with the bloody Reign of Terror period of the French Revolution in the late 18th century, the guillotine was still used as a method of execution well into the 20th century. In fact, the last person to be executed by guillotine in France was Tunisian immigrant Hamida Djandoubi, in September 1977 – the same year that George Lucas's epic blockbuster film *Star Wars* was first shown on the big screen.

WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

ALAMY X1, GETTY X10

Elizabeth Siddal was a talented poet and artist, as her c1860 drawing *The Woeful Victory*, shown left, demonstrates

WHAT GREAT PAINTINGS SAY

Dante Gabriel Rossetti's fantasised portrayal of his wife's death masks the story of an incredible woman

Beata Beatrix

by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, c1864

On 10 February 1862, Dante Gabriel Rossetti discovered his beloved wife and muse, Elizabeth Siddal, unconscious in bed, an empty bottle of laudanum at her side. Frantic and unable to rouse her, Rossetti summoned doctor after doctor, but to no avail: Siddal died the following morning. Distraught, he sought solace in his art, creating this romanticised image of his wife at the moment of her death. The tranquillity of the scene and her trance-like state is a far cry from the grim reality of her last moments.

"Rossetti cast Siddal in the role of Beatrice Portinari, the inspiration and muse of medieval Italian poet Dante Alighieri, who is depicted in the top right of the painting," says Carol Jacobi, curator of British art 1850–1915 at Tate Britain. "The work has become iconic as a beautiful and tragic portrayal of Elizabeth, but there is a much darker story of addiction and mental illness behind the figure Rossetti presents to us."

INSPIRING AND ARTISTIC

Siddal had the extraordinary coppery hair that we see in this picture and which came to characterise so many of Rossetti's famous paintings. But her individual, boyish looks were far from Victorian ideas of beauty. The soft, richly coloured robe looks romantically medieval, but it also reflected her real-life rejection of the restrictive clothing worn by Victorian women.

"Elizabeth Siddal chose a working life and did not marry until she was 30," says Jacobi. "It required exceptional courage and determination for a young working-class woman to set out to be a professional painter-poet. She earned her living as a seamstress in a milliners shop in a rackety part of London's Leicester Square until gaining employment as a professional model to a group of rebel artists, led by Rossetti. Unlike mainstream painters, these 'Pre-Raphaelites' appreciated her more authentic, unconventional looks."

Modelling brought Siddal closer to the world of art and poetry she desired, and she became Rossetti's student, sharing his studio for many years. She was one of the first artists to illustrate Tennyson and specialised in folk tales of star-crossed couples. Her talent saw her become the sole female exhibitor at the Pre-Raphaelite Exhibition in London and New York.

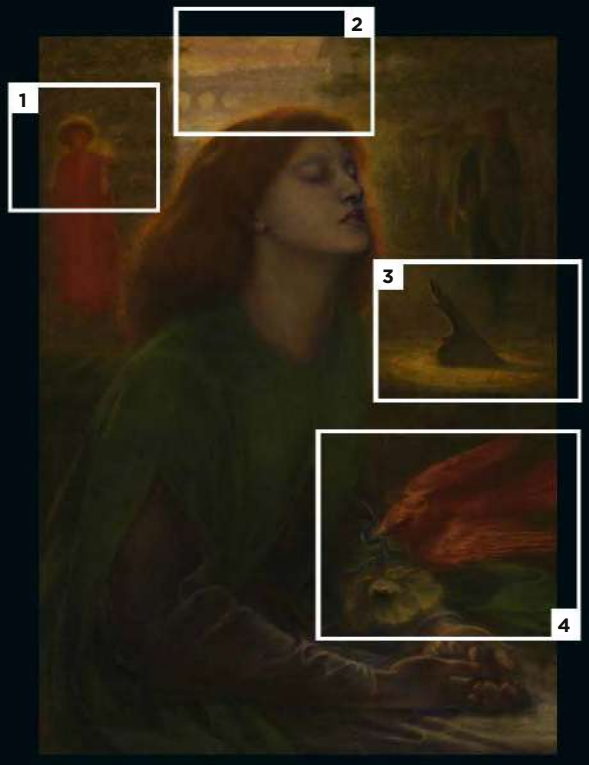
Says Jacobi: "Siddal and Rossetti fell in love, and became the lovers they depicted in almost all of each other's paintings and poems. Siddal has become legendary as Rossetti's romantic and artistic muse, immortalised in this painting, but it would be truer to say they inspired each other, over and over again."

The rapt pose of Beata Beatrix, at once spiritual and sensual, alludes to this inspiration in a deeper way. It is more than a celebration of Siddal's beauty. Her appearance was, in fact, changed by depression, opium dependency and the stillbirth of a daughter in the two years before her death. But the painting also refers to her inspiring imagination, commemorating the way Siddal's ideas, as well as her likeness and her love, inspired Rossetti.

"Siddal lived a courageous life that broke with Victorian propriety and excluded her from the kind of marriage expected of a 19th-century woman. The 10-year postponement of her marriage to Rossetti, and the possibility of childbirth, preserved both her legal and practical independence. Sometimes the couple were estranged for long periods, but they eventually married in 1860 after Siddal fell ill."

After his wife's death, Rossetti put poems created out of their relationship in her coffin. Seven years later, determined to publish his first poetry collection, his agent gained special permission to retrieve the manuscript. In keeping with the romantic image that overshadows the flesh-and-blood woman, it was falsely reported that her body remained "quite perfect" – her glorious red hair having continued to grow after death so that it filled the coffin.

WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN AND CAROL JACOBI



TATE X1, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE LIBRARY X1

1. LOVE
The figure of love hovers behind the figure of Beatrice, holding the burning flame of her soul.

2. FLORENCE
The bridge has been identified as various sites, including the Ponte Vecchio in Florence.

3. SUNDIAL
The shadow hovers at nine – the time at which Beatrice died on 9 June 1290, according to Dante Alighieri.

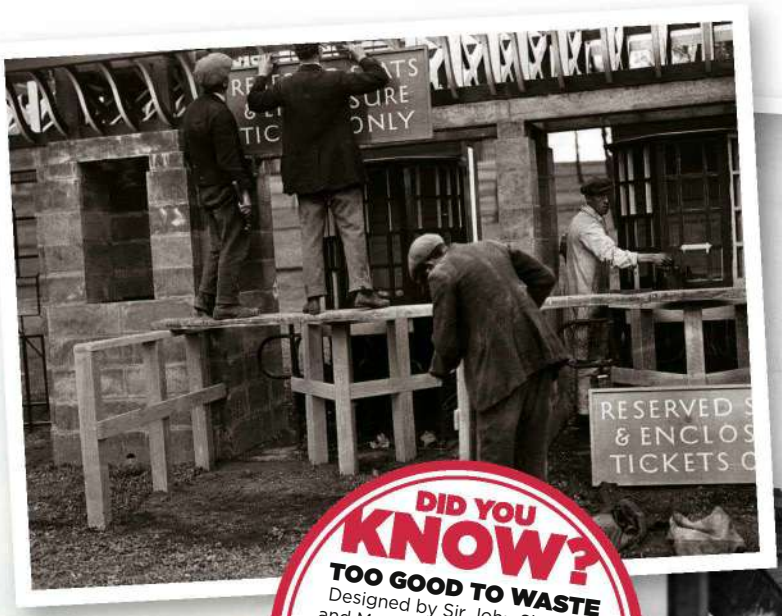
4. DOVE
The dove here is a messenger of death and also a reference to Siddal's demise – 'Dove' being Rossetti's nickname for her. In its beak it carries an opium poppy.

GET HOOKED

The Rossettis exhibition – featuring *Beata Beatrix*, together with works by Elizabeth Siddal – is at Tate Britain, London, until 24 September 2023. Visit *tate.org uk* for more information.

100 YEARS OF WEMBLEY

As Britain's famous Wembley Stadium celebrates its centenary, we've joined forces with **Nige Tassell** – author of a new book about the venue – to bring you the stories behind some of its greatest events



DID YOU KNOW?

TOO GOOD TO WASTE

Designed by Sir John Simpson and Maxwell Ayrton, the original stadium was only intended to be a temporary structure for the British Empire Exhibition (*see page 60*). It was saved by businessmen Arthur Elvin and Sir James Stevenson, who saw its future potential.

WORK IN PROGRESS, 1923

▲ Located in a quiet corner of Middlesex and surrounded by open fields, construction work on Wembley Stadium – originally known as the Empire Stadium – was completed in April 1923, less than a year after it began. Here, labourers are seen putting the finishing touches to a block of turnstiles (*above left*) and erecting one of the stadium's iconic Twin Towers (*above right*).

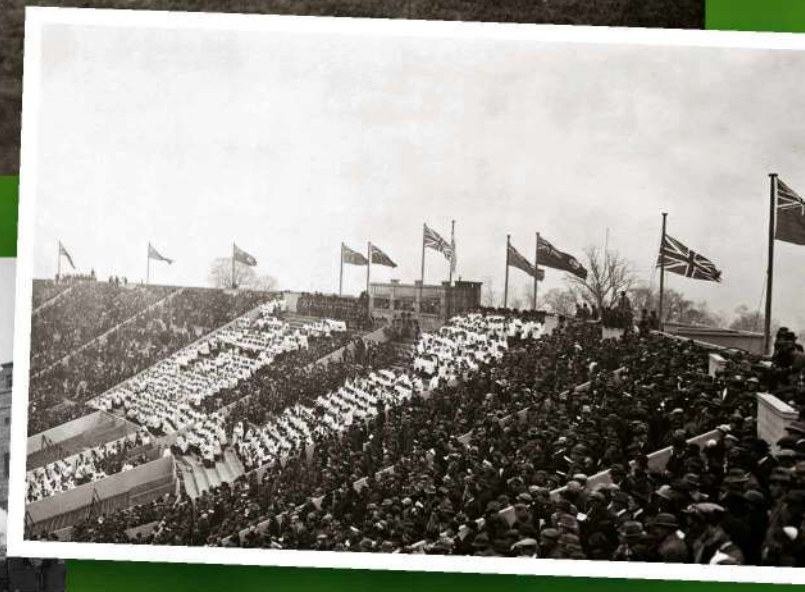
IT CAME HOME, 1966

◀ *"Some people are on the pitch! They think it's all over... it is now!"* Football fans of all ages and allegiances will be surely be familiar with these words, delivered by commentator Kenneth Wolstenholme as Geoff Hurst completed his hat-trick and sealed England's victory over West Germany at the 1966 FIFA World Cup Final. With an ecstatic Wembley crowd roaring him on, Hurst's teammate Bobby Charlton is seen here holding the famous Jules Rimet Trophy, flanked by captain Bobby Moore to his left and Alan Ball to his right.

GETTY IMAGES X4

RIDE A WHITE HORSE, 1923

▶ The first event held at the stadium was the 1923 FA Cup Final between Bolton Wanderers and West Ham United (*right*). But it is not Bolton's 2–0 victory that has lingered long in the public memory. Rather, it is the striking images of PC George Scorey and his horse, Billy, helping to clear spectators from the pitch before the game (*above*).



ROYAL APPROVAL, 1924

▲ The stadium was originally constructed as the centrepiece of the British Empire Exhibition – an imperial extravaganza showcasing trade and industry in Britain's overseas territories. Opened by King George V and Queen Mary on 23 April 1924 (*above*), many of the exhibits were housed in concrete pavilions around Wembley Park; the image above left, for example, shows the foundations of the Australian Pavilion being laid the previous year.

BE PREPARED, 1924

◀ Coinciding with the British Empire Exhibition was the Imperial Scout Jamboree. Held in August 1924, the event saw more than 10,000 boy scouts from across Britain and the Commonwealth descend on Wembley for a week of ceremonies and scouting activities – all under the watchful gaze of the movement's founder, Lord Robert Baden-Powell.

GETTY IMAGES X8, ALAMY X1

H MARKS THE SPOT, 1933

▼ Rugby league isn't commonly associated with the south of England, but that hasn't stopped Wembley Stadium from being the venue of the Challenge Cup final. This snap shows a set of posts being lifted into position ahead of the 1933 decider, which saw Huddersfield beat Warrington 21–17.

MEDICINE SHOW, 1942

▶ During World War II, the stadium hosted some rather unusual events. Here, members of the mobile operation section of the Wembley Civil Defence Service carry out a medical demonstration on the pitch, showing spectators how they care for the wounded.

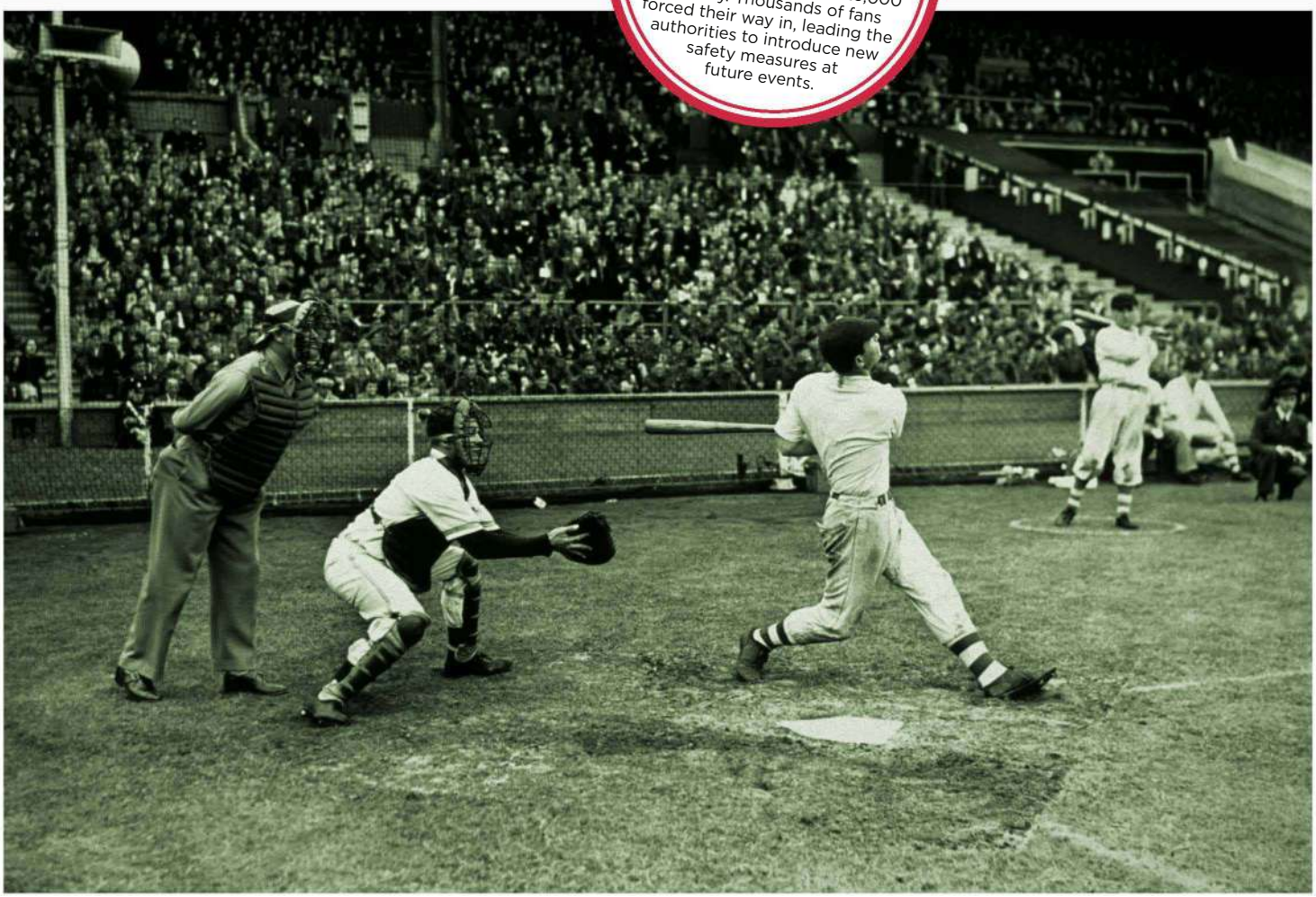
DID YOU KNOW?

CROWDED HOUSE

The so-called 'White Horse Final' (*see page 60*) was attended by up to 300,000 people – more than double Wembley's 125,000 capacity. Thousands of fans forced their way in, leading the authorities to introduce new safety measures at future events.

BACK TO BASE-ICS, 1943

▼ Even baseball has been played on the Wembley turf. Another wartime photograph shows spectators enjoying a special exhibition game between members of the US and Canadian forces in August 1943. Proceeds from the event were donated to the war effort.



GOING FOR GOLD, 1948

▲ London has been the host city for the modern Olympic Games a total of three times: 1908, 1948 and 2012. The damage of World War II meant the second of these games was a comparatively modest affair, but there was still plenty to cheer about – not least the superb sporting facilities of Wembley Stadium. Above, a bumper crowd watches the men's 100m final, while on the left a smiling group of American athletes are ferried to the venue from their lodgings.

DID YOU KNOW?

REDUCED TO RUBBLE

Wembley's famous Twin Towers were given Grade II-listed status in 1976. However, this was not enough to prevent the 38-metre-tall structures from being demolished when the stadium was completely rebuilt between 2003 and 2007.

STICK OR BUST, 1963

▲ For decades, Wembley served as the venue for an annual international hockey match organised by the All England Women's Hockey Association. This action shot, taken at the 1963 event, shows Wales keeper Margaret Jones coming under pressure from an England attack. However, the hosts failed to deliver and the Welsh won the clash 0–1.

HIGH AMBITIONS, 1961

▶ Arranging an outdoor skiing competition in England is a strange idea at the best of times, but to hold one at the start of summer – and inside Wembley Stadium – is stranger still. Regardless, the organisers of the 1961 International Ski Jump Competition went ahead with their unusual plan, which involved the construction of a 46-metre-tall ski slope and 50 tonnes of snow.

GETTY IMAGES X10, ALAMY X1

DOUBLE-DECKER DARE, 1975

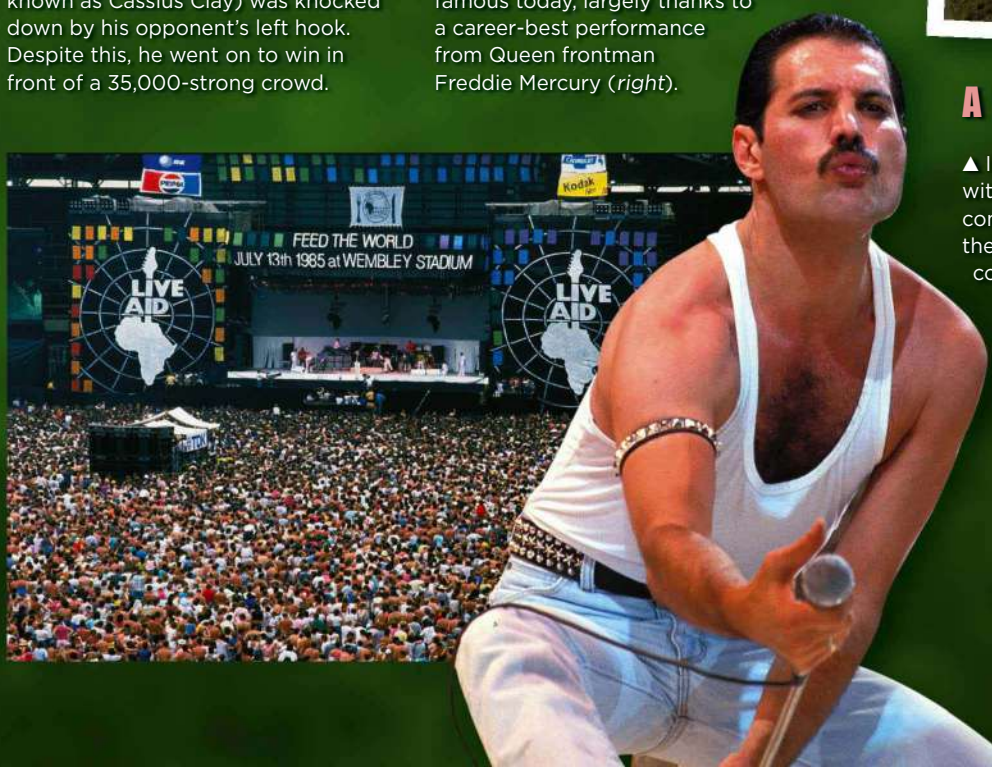
▲ Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's the American stunt performer Evel Knievel attempting to jump over 13 London buses at Wembley Stadium on 26 May 1975. Things didn't quite go to plan: the motorcycling daredevil failed to clear the final bus and crashed, breaking his hand and fracturing his pelvis in the process. Still, Knievel was back on his bike a few months later, attempting further death-defying feats.

ON THE ROPES, 1963

▲ Muhammad Ali may have been 'The Greatest', but this image shows a rare moment of vulnerability for the champion heavyweight. During the fourth round of his 1963 Wembley bout against Henry Cooper, Ali (then known as Cassius Clay) was knocked down by his opponent's left hook. Despite this, he went on to win in front of a 35,000-strong crowd.

WE WILL ROCK YOU, 1985

▼ Most people above a certain age will recall where they were during Live Aid – the musical spectacular held on 13 July 1985 to raise money for Ethiopian famine victims. Although a sister event took place in Philadelphia, it is the Wembley concert that remains most famous today, largely thanks to a career-best performance from Queen frontman Freddie Mercury (*right*).



A NEW ERA, 2005

▲ In 2000, the ageing venue closed its doors, with construction work on a £798m replacement commencing three years later. On 12 May 2007, the new Wembley Stadium hosted its first competitive football match: a 3–2 victory for Stevenage Borough over Kidderminster Harriers in the FA Trophy Final, with Harriers striker James Constable scoring the first goal under the now-iconic Wembley arch. ⊙

WORDS: JON BAUCKHAM

GET HOOKED

READ

A new book by *BBC History Revealed* contributor Nige Tassell, entitled *Field of Dreams: 100 Years of Wembley in 100 Matches*, is out now, published by Simon & Schuster

WHAT IF...

BRITAIN HADN'T CRACKED THE ENIGMA CODE IN WORLD WAR II?

Nige Tassell and **Professor Michael Goodman** debate what might have happened had the Bletchley Park codebreakers been unsuccessful

From 1940, the Allied war effort received a huge boost when scientists at Bletchley Park became able to decipher encrypted instructions sent by the Nazi military command using the Enigma machine. Being able to read these messages proved to be a vital tool that arguably altered the course of the war. Without it, history might have taken a very different shape.

One of the first theatres in which the cracking of Enigma had an impact was the battle of the Atlantic, which raged throughout the war in Europe. Until the breakthrough at Bletchley Park, German vessels operating in wolfpacks were able to pick off Allied ships carrying crucial supplies and armaments east across the ocean. Once in possession of vital intelligence about the enemy's location, though, an Allied fleet could divert its route and avoid significant loss of life.

"Knowing where the wolfpacks were allowed the Allies to simply sail around them," confirms Michael Goodman, professor of intelligence and international affairs at King's College London, and author of *The Official History of the Joint Intelligence Committee, Volume 1*. "But how do you conceal from the Germans that you're reading these codes? You can't just bypass every single submarine because then it becomes obvious. It's a classic intelligence conundrum: at what point do you reveal your hand?"

Keeping their cards close to their chest gave the Allies an advantage in the Atlantic, allowing supplies to reach other theatres. "Enigma was a force enabler," observes Professor Goodman. "It provided a window into what the Germans were thinking and doing, but it didn't tell the Allies what to do. It still had to be applied – but in the Atlantic it saved ships and it saved lives."

THWARTING AXIS PLANS

Without the cracking of Enigma, would Germany still have ruled the Atlantic's waves? "I think that's probably true," confirms Professor Goodman, before positing another conundrum: "Had Hitler succeeded in marshalling the Atlantic, would he then have pushed on to the US? Or might he have linked up with the other Axis powers to push into the Americas, not just the US? I'd have been surprised if he had been able to extend into another theatre, but it could have been an option."

One significant likely consequence of continued German control of the Atlantic has been much discussed: had Enigma not been cracked, it's unlikely that World War II would have ended in 1945. "I absolutely believe Enigma shortened the war," says Professor Goodman. "The general consensus is that it did so by two or three years."

With control of the Atlantic wrested from Germany, the Allies could focus attention elsewhere – and the work of the codebreakers at Bletchley Park proved fundamental to the success of D-Day in 1944. "The intelligence that preceded the landings was all about whether the Germans had swallowed the deception plan," explains Professor Goodman. "Did they believe that it was going to happen farther north along the coast, near Calais rather than in Normandy? And what level of opposition could be expected when the Allies landed? This was totally based on the intelligence gathered. And that was down to cracking Enigma."

Would the Allies have risked an invasion the size and scale of D Day without the intelligence that had been harvested?

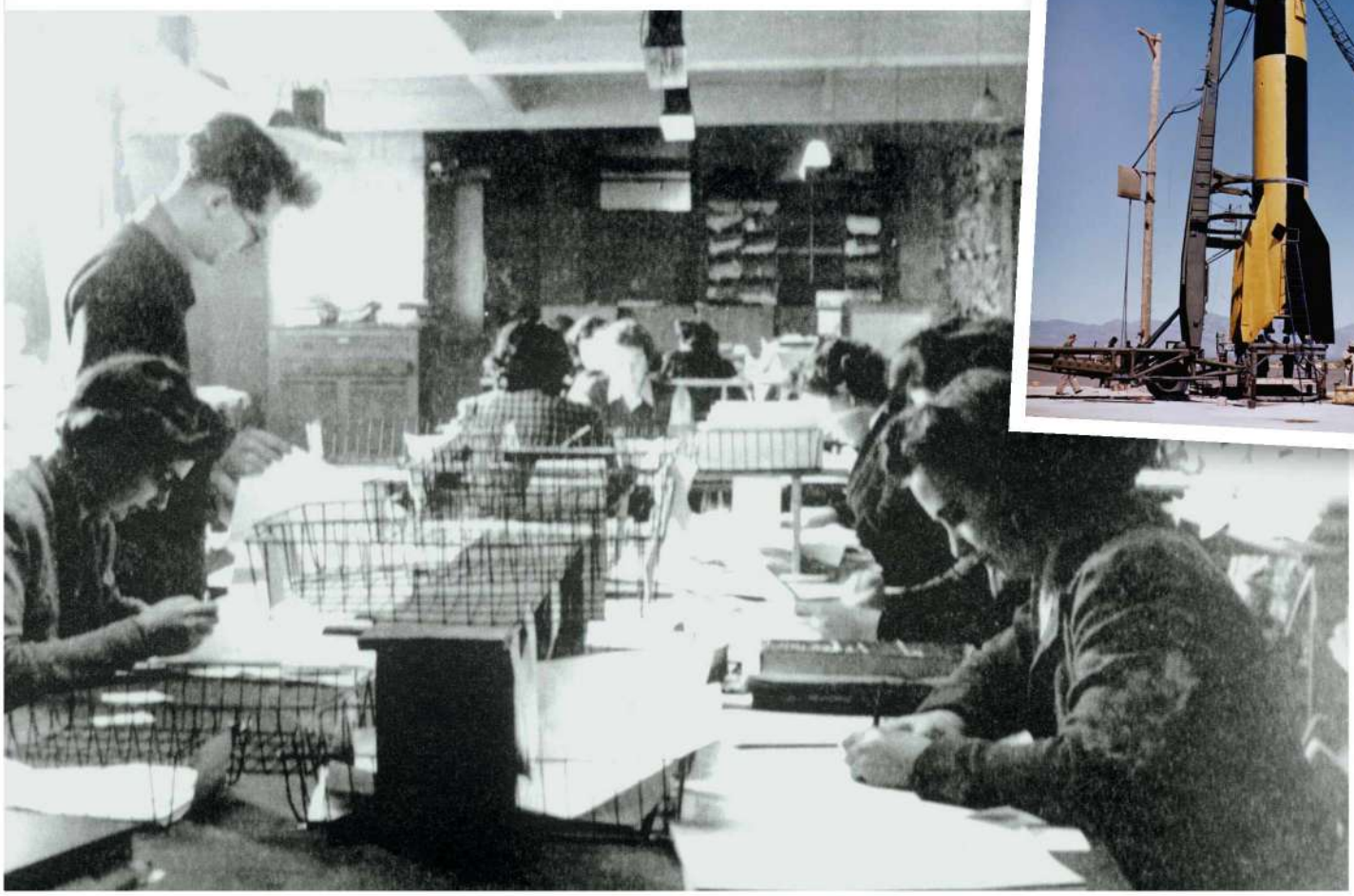
IN CONTEXT

At the start of World War II, a talented team of mathematicians and cryptologists was gathered at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire. Initially aided by the Polish intelligence services, they were charged with cracking the German Enigma machine, used by the Nazis to encrypt top-level messages. The experts, notably Alan Turing, developed a code-breaking machine and system for deciphering German instructions, which had a significant impact on the direction of the war.

RIGHT: **A three-ring Enigma cipher machine, c1930s. Later four-ring models were even harder to crack**

FAR RIGHT: **Mathematician Alan Turing, who played a key role in deciphering Enigma codes**

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X1



ABOVE: **An undated image shows members of Bletchley Park's Hut 3, which was tasked with producing intelligence based on Enigma decrypts**

INSET: **V2 rockets might have rained down more heavily on Britain had Enigma not been cracked**

"By then, the war was very much going the Allies' way," explains Professor Goodman, "and it was absolutely a decision taken by them that there had to be an invasion of northwest Europe. But would it have taken place in the way that it did? And would they have committed as many forces? Possibly not, because for such a deception to succeed, you have to know it's been swallowed by the enemy. And you couldn't know that without something like Enigma. Had the deception plan not worked, and had all those German forces still been in Normandy and not redeployed to Calais, the loss of life on the Allies' side would have been truly horrendous. It was still bad on D-Day."

"HAD ENIGMA NOT BEEN CRACKED, IT'S UNLIKELY THAT WORLD WAR II WOULD HAVE ENDED WHEN IT DID IN 1945"

DIFFERENT DIRECTION

Without a large-scale invasion like D-Day – or, at least, one at that particular juncture – it's again likely that the war would have lasted longer than it did. And who knows what direction it would have taken in those extra years. Would it, for instance, have given Hitler more time to develop an atomic programme, with dramatic consequences for Europe and the wider world? Professor Goodman thinks probably not.

"The main German scientists who were captured towards the end of the war were interned in a house in Cambridgeshire," he explains. "When the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, the rooms they were in were bugged. It was very clear they didn't really know how to develop an atomic bomb. Would they have got there in another three years? Perhaps they would have grown their V1 and V2 programmes instead. Hitler was certainly turning towards bigger types of weapons like those."

So it can be suggested that the cracking of Enigma at least indirectly helped avert another devastating Blitz for the people of Britain. "Whether these German missiles would have made a strategic difference is another question," concludes Professor Goodman, "but certainly the effect on the UK population, both physically and in terms of morale, could have been very significant."

DID YOU KNOW?

WOMEN AT WAR

Initially, recruits for Bletchley Park came from the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. As the war progressed, though, they were drawn from various sources, particularly the women's services. By 1945, 75 per cent of the staff were women.

GET HOOKED

LISTEN

Historian Dr Tessa Dunlop discusses the women of Bletchley Park on an episode the *HistoryExtra* podcast: *historyextra.com/bletchley-women-pod*

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238

The number of years that the fountain of a topless woman in Treviso, Italy, dispensed wine to celebrate the election of a new mayor – white from one breast and red from the other.

MAIN: **Notable Tarim Mummies include the remains of a woman since dubbed the 'Loulan Beauty'**

BELOW RIGHT: **The bodies are remarkably well-preserved for their age – the so-called 'Cherchen Man' died around 1000 BC**

Who were the Tarim Mummies?

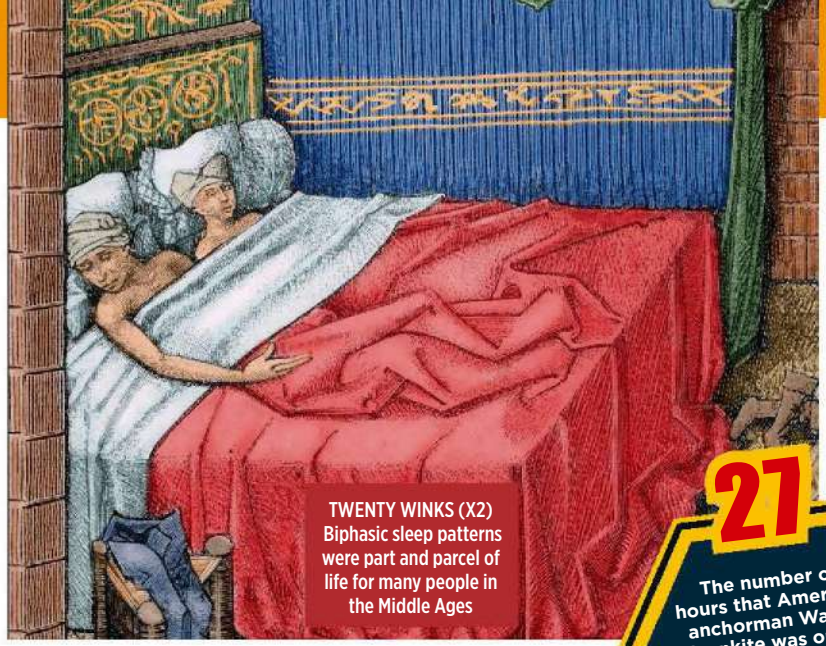
SHORT ANSWER **Despite their unusual characteristics for Asia, this isolated group were not travellers from far away**

LONG ANSWER The 20th-century discovery of hundreds of naturally preserved mummies in the desert of the Tarim Basin, in the present-day Xinjiang region of China, constituted a remarkable archaeological achievement. They dated from around 2000 BC to AD 200 – with one of the oldest being the so-called 'Loulan Beauty' – and had survived the ravages of time thanks to the extremely dry and arid environment.

Yet there is more to the Tarim Mummies: they were found to have Caucasian physical features, such as the 'Cherchen Man', from around 1000 BC, with his red hair and beard, high cheekbones and long nose. If that wasn't unusual enough for Asia, some were buried in upside-down boats with stakes that resembled oars, which sounds rather Viking-like. Their clothing made of wool, felt and leather was similar to what was worn in Europe, and some of the dead had cheese around their necks, possibly intended as food for the afterlife.

For a long time, experts believed the mummies were of Indo-European ancestry, perhaps migrants from Siberia. Recent analysis, however, suggests the Tarim Mummies were, in fact, long-time locals of the area, descending from an Ice Age population known as the Ancient North Eurasians. How they kept themselves so genetically isolated remains a mystery, though.

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X1



TWENTY WINKS (X2) Biphasic sleep patterns were part and parcel of life for many people in the Middle Ages

21

The number of hours that American anchorman Walter Cronkite was on air during the pivotal 30-hour stretch of the Apollo 11 Moon landing. He was nicknamed 'Old Iron Pants'.

Why did medieval people have two sleeps?

SHORT ANSWER Night without artificial light lasted a long time, so resting could be savoured

LONG ANSWER Getting a good eight hours a night has been recommended for millennia, but not every era has agreed with today's template of getting them all in one go. In medieval times, people favoured two spells of sleep lasting four hours each. The period in between, at the dead of night, was 'the watch' – a surprisingly productive time.

Refreshed from the first sleep, it was when jobs or household chores could be done; a social time for couples; and a chance for religious observance when certain prayers would be said. Then, after the watch, people had the second sleep until dawn.

This habit of 'biphasic sleep' wasn't just a medieval phenomenon either, but had existed since ancient times. In fact, it was only with the regimented working hours and truncated rest time of the Industrial Revolution, and the advent of artificial lighting, that the two sleeps were finally put to bed – despite it arguably being more natural and actually healthier.

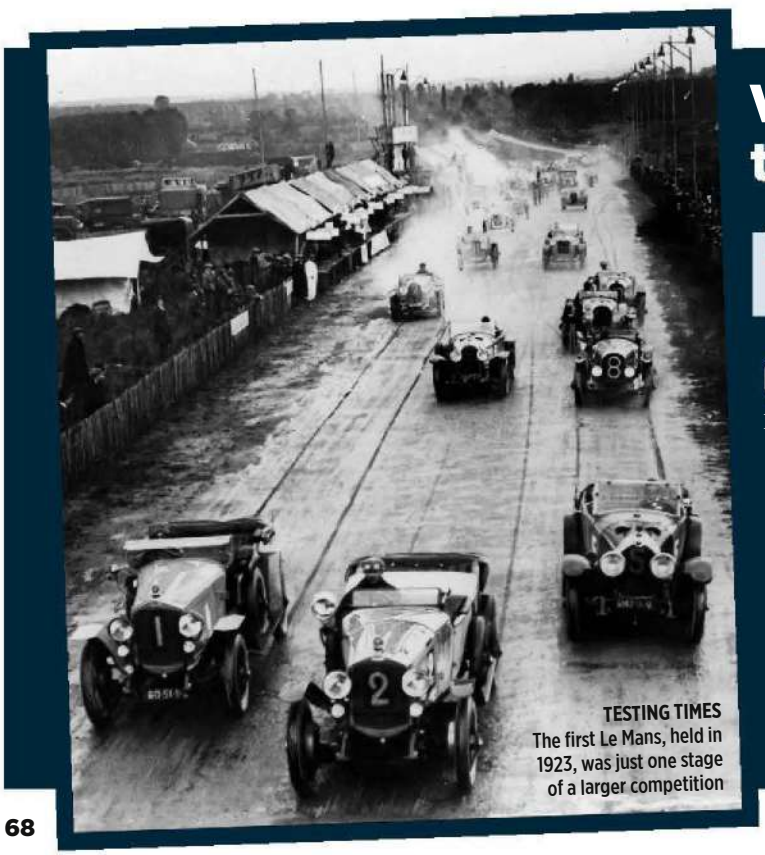
How popular was the Billy Possum?

SHORT ANSWER Well, no one has ever gone down to the woods for a Billy Possum picnic

LONG ANSWER When the teddy bear first appeared on shop shelves in 1903, created by Russian-born Morris Michtom and named for US president Theodore 'Teddy' Roosevelt, it became a sensation. Companies set about trying to recreate its success with a new toy, eyeing a hole in the market once Teddy was out of office. Preferably, it would be attached to the next president. Enter the Billy Possum, named after William Howard Taft.

Going on sale in 1909 with the slogan "Good-bye, Teddy Bear. Hello, Billy Possum", it received a huge marketing push, featuring on postcards and in music, but it didn't have the appeal and flopped before the year was out. While real bears are far from cuddly, there was just something wholly un-cute and un-huggable about poor Billy Possum.

WHAT A TAFT IDEA Billy Possum wasn't quite the hit his creators hoped he would be



TESTING TIMES The first Le Mans, held in 1923, was just one stage of a larger competition

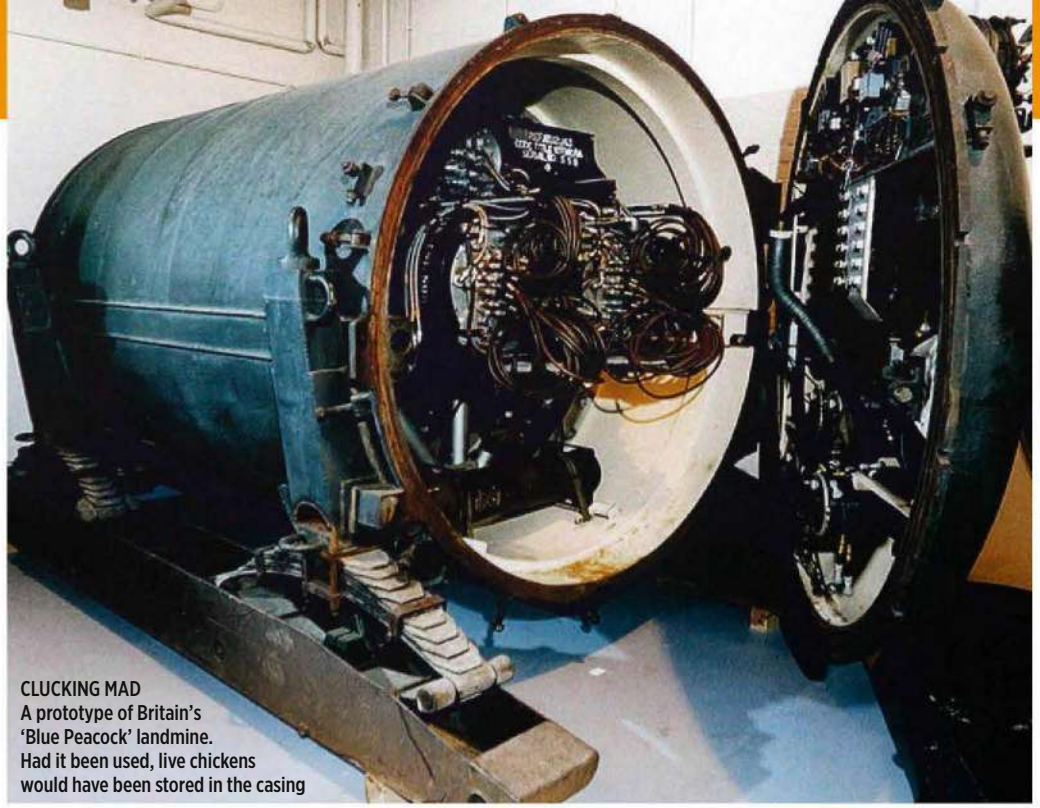
When was the first Le Mans?

SHORT ANSWER A century ago, the nascent world of automobile racing hit a new gear

LONG ANSWER Henry Ford's Model T was only 14 years old when the iconic 24-hour endurance test was first held near Le Mans, France. At a time when people couldn't get enough of car racing, the Automobile Club de l'Ouest devised a new kind of event to be less about speed and more about durability. Held on 26–27 May 1923, the first Le Mans involved 33 entrants and took place in the streets.

The winners were André Lagache and René Léonard in their Chenard-Walcker, except they didn't really 'win'. The 1923 event was the first of three legs in the Rudge Whitworth Triennial Cup, which would eventually be claimed in 1925 by another French pair, Robert Sénéchal and Albéric Loqueheux. The three-part format was dropped not long afterwards, allowing Le Mans to focus solely on who could cover the farthest distance in 24 hours, which it has done ever since.

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X2, ATLANTA HISTORY CENTRE X1



CLUCKING MAD
A prototype of Britain's 'Blue Peacock' landmine. Had it been used, live chickens would have been stored in the casing

What was Operation Blue Peacock?

SHORT ANSWER The nuclear landmine could have given the west the edge... if the plan hadn't laid an egg

LONG ANSWER If the Cold War ever came down to the west and east facing off in a conventional ground conflict, there was a fear among nations like the US and UK that the Soviets had a clear numerical advantage. So, in the 1950s the British came up with a new type of landmine: a nuclear one that could be positioned where enemy forces were bound to show up during their advance. West Germany, for instance.

Developed by the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment, the buried bomb, dubbed 'Blue Peacock', would have a 10-kiloton blast, which was more than enough to wipe out a sizeable proportion of the Soviet army and ensure the region could not be occupied. There was a snag, however, other than the radioactive fallout: the landmine couldn't get too cold otherwise the components would stop working.

Sure, insulating blankets would do the job, but another suggested solution – thought to be an April Fool's joke when the project was declassified – was to place live chickens inside the casing. Their body warmth would keep everything ticking until they starved, by which time the enemy would surely have arrived and the landmine detonated. While several prototypes were constructed, the Blue Peacock project was abandoned in 1958 – much to the relief of the chicken population.

DID YOU KNOW?

REST... IN PEACE
Henry VIII's bed-maker had to kiss the king's sheets, pillow and blankets to prove they had not wiped any poison on anything. New clothes for the king's son, Edward, were similarly tested by being rubbed on someone else's skin first.

NAME SHAME
In the early 1960s, the Senate of the Philippines put forward a bill to change the name of the country to Malaysia, only to be pipped by the people of British Malaya, who gained their independence and took the name in 1963.

LOVE THE GAME
After surviving the 1912 sinking of *Titanic*, tennis player R Norris Williams' legs were so frostbitten that they were nearly amputated. Instead, he walked them back into life. He went on to win the US Open two years later, then Olympic gold in 1924.

A BIG PART
Among the many plays by the Roman poet Gnaeus Naevius in the third century BC, there were some unusual titles, such as *Testicularia* (translated as 'The Testicles'), *Appella* ('The Circumcised'), and *Triphallus* ('The Man With Three Penises').

Which European first saw the Pacific from the Americas?

SHORT ANSWER The Spanish conquistador not only saw the ocean, he conquered it

LONG ANSWER Conquistador Vasco Núñez de Balboa (*depicted right*) came to the New World in 1500, helping to establish the first stable Spanish settlement on the American mainland and serving as a governor. He was a ruthless coloniser who delved deep into unknown territory in search of gold, which brought him, in September 1513, to a sight that no European eyes had seen before: the Pacific Ocean from the land.

Having trekked across the isthmus of Panama with a group that included around 190 countrymen, he stood on "a peak in Darien" and claimed it all for Spain. To explore this conquest, he had ships moved in pieces over the mountains. The esteem he enjoyed did not last long, though: Balboa made enemies and would be executed for high treason in 1519.

What is the oldest railway still in use?

SHORT ANSWER The Middleton Railway existed before there were locomotives

LONG ANSWER With apologies to the older railways to have existed – or funiculars (cabled railways), like the 15th-century Reisszug railway in Austria – but this is about the oldest track in continuous use. A contender, therefore, is the Middleton Railway in West Yorkshire. Built in 1758 to help horse-drawn waggons move coal from the pits of Middleton to Leeds, it still offers passenger services over a one-mile section of the original track. That said, the heritage Tanfield Railway in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, uses a section surviving from 1725; it just misses out, though, as operation ceased in 1964 before preservation work got going.

HERBAL REMEDIES Ancient Greek lovers, such as the pair depicted in this sixth-century BC image, often turned to silphium (*inset*) for contraception

What did the Greeks use for birth control?

SHORT ANSWER Forget pomegranates or sneezing – one ancient herb was worth its weight in gold

LONG ANSWER Greek women utilised a host of natural concoctions to prevent pregnancy, from drinking copper saltwater – as suggested by medical titan Hippocrates – to applying spermicides made of olive or cedar oil or the juice of pomegranates. Still, they should at least be grateful they weren't Egyptian, who had been using crocodile dung instead.

There were some more palatable options, too: Soranus, a physician living in the Roman empire in the first and second century AD, espoused in his treatise, *Gynecology*, the method of sneezing after sex. By far the most popular, though, was silphium, a species of giant fennel native to north Africa that could be ingested or soaked into cotton and used as a pessary.

Such was the demand for the herb (not only for birth control, but to treat a plethora of ailments) that silphium became as valuable as silver, even gold, and would be eventually harvested to complete extinction.

1

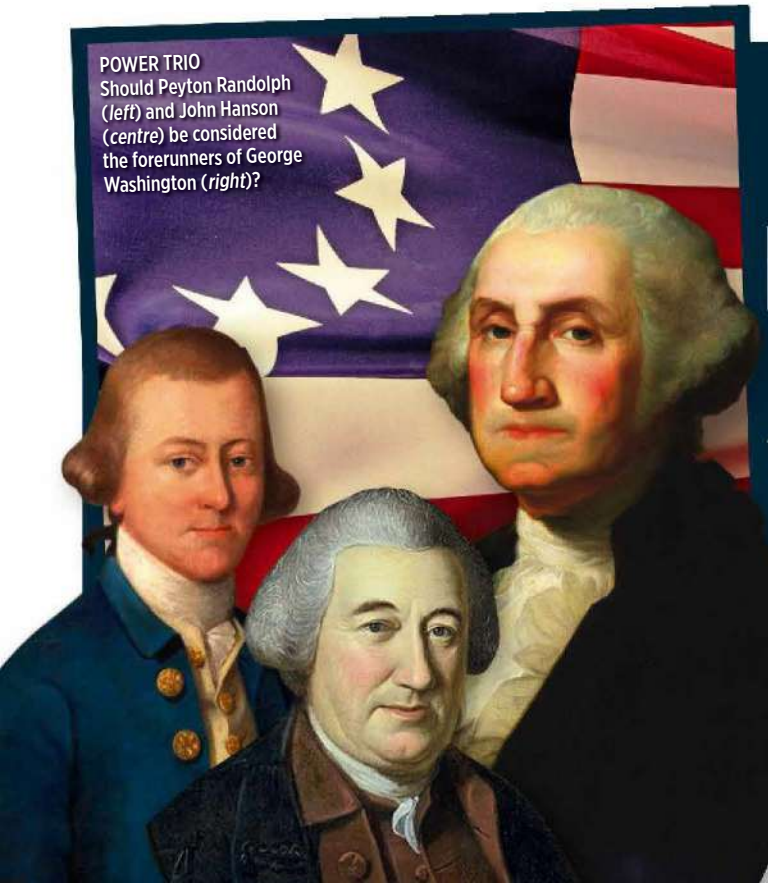
The number of slave traders tried under the 1820 US Piracy Act, which declared the Atlantic trade to be piracy. The sole defendant, Nathaniel Gordon, died at the gallows in 1862.

Was ketchup originally sold as a medicine?

SHORT ANSWER In the 19th century, tomatoes inspired both a condiment and a cure

LONG ANSWER Ketchup had been around for centuries in different forms – including mushroom, mussel and walnut – before, in 1812, American scientist and horticulturist James Mease transformed it into a must-have condiment. The secret ingredient was tomatoes, or 'love apples' as he called them.

Mease meant his ketchup to be a tasty addition to a dish, but two decades later an interest in the health benefits of tomatoes led Dr John Cook Bennett to sell his own brand, in pill form, as a cure for ailments like diarrhoea, indigestion, jaundice and rheumatism. The demand for medical ketchup, exploited by snake-oil salesmen who used laxatives instead of tomatoes, was eventually squeezed out, leaving the condiment to grow in popularity again. In 1876, Heinz began producing ketchup and dinner tables never looked the same again.



POWER TRIO Should Peyton Randolph (*left*) and John Hanson (*centre*) be considered the forerunners of George Washington (*right*)?

Who was the first president of the US?

SHORT ANSWER We all know it was George Washington... but is this a trick question?

LONG ANSWER There is an obvious answer here: George Washington, hero of the American Revolutionary War who was unanimously selected to be the inaugural president of the United States in 1789. Yet there are some far lesser-known names that may be worth consideration.

In 1774, the First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia, with delegates from 12 British colonies laying out their grievances against the Crown. They also chose as their president Peyton Randolph from Virginia. He also briefly served as president of the Second Continental Congress, which drafted the Declaration of Independence and established the US as a new country.

True, the groundwork of the office of president was only laid down with the Articles of Confederation, ratified in 1781, and the formation of the Congress of the Confederation. The first president of that body was John Hanson. But since the executive didn't truly exist until 1789, let's just stick with the obvious answer.

LONG ROAD TO EQUALITY
The first same-sex marriages took place in England and Wales in 2014, 47 years after sexual acts between men were partly decriminalised

When was homosexuality made illegal in the UK?

SHORT ANSWER A law passed in the time of Tudors made male homosexuality punishable by death for centuries

LONG ANSWER The year 1967 is often considered a landmark moment for homosexual equality, with the Sexual Offences Act partly decriminalising male same-sex acts in England and Wales. Scotland followed in 1980 and Northern Ireland in 1982. The law was far from comprehensive or immediate, and public attitudes didn't exactly change overnight – the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act didn't become law until 2013, after all – but it finally started the process of removing the legal framework that had existed for nearly half a millennium.

The Buggery Act of 1533, during the reign of King Henry VIII, had outlawed sodomy, or "the detestable & abominable vice of buggeri committed with mankind or beest", moving the matter of stamping out 'immoral' homosexuality away from the Church and into the hands of the state. Although repealed briefly by Mary I, the law was back in place under Elizabeth I and for centuries condemned men to arrest – and even death.

Incidentally, there has never been a comparable law in the UK for same-sex acts between women. An attempt was made in the 1920s, but it ultimately fizzled out due to fears that simply addressing the issue would encourage a rise in lesbian activity.

Did Leonardo da Vinci make a mechanical lion?

SHORT ANSWER Creating a walking king of the jungle was a relatively easy task for the Renaissance genius

LONG ANSWER Among his cavalcade of creations, Leonardo da Vinci once devised a mechanical lion for the recently crowned king of France, Francis I. Presented in 1517, the automaton could walk forward, move its head, shake its tail, and drop flowers at the delighted monarch's feet. Leonardo was commissioned by the pope, fittingly called Leo X, and is thought to have come up with a number of designs. An earlier incarnation couldn't walk, but the body opened to reveal a fleur-de-lis. While his lions have been lost, a three-metre-long replica went on display in Paris in 2019 to mark the 500th anniversary of the Renaissance polymath's death.

MANE ATTRACTION
A replica of one of Leonardo's lions was displayed in the French capital to mark 500 years since his death

What were 'Godfrey daggers'?

SHORT ANSWER How best to commemorate a murder victim? A dangerous weapon, of course

LONG ANSWER In 1678, a plot to assassinate Charles II was uncovered. Except, it wasn't real. The Popish Plot was nothing more than a conspiracy by a failed priest named Titus Oates, who convinced a lot of people that Jesuits wanted to replace the king with his Catholic brother, James, Duke of York. Oates and his fanatical co-conspirator Israel Tonge even wormed their way to the Privy Council.

Although Charles himself did not find the claim credible, anti-Catholic sentiment fuelled the bogus plot, especially after the murder of Sir Edmund Berry Godfrey. On 12 October 1678, the magistrate, who had been presented with Oates's fabricated evidence, was found in a ditch strangled and impaled with his own sword.

Catholics were blamed, Oates vindicated, and more than 30 people killed in the resulting hysteria. Meanwhile, opportunistic cutlers made daggers in Godfrey's honour. Today, these 'Godfrey daggers' are rare collector items.

STRAIGHT TO THE POINT
A surviving Godfrey dagger, inscribed with messages commemorating its namesake

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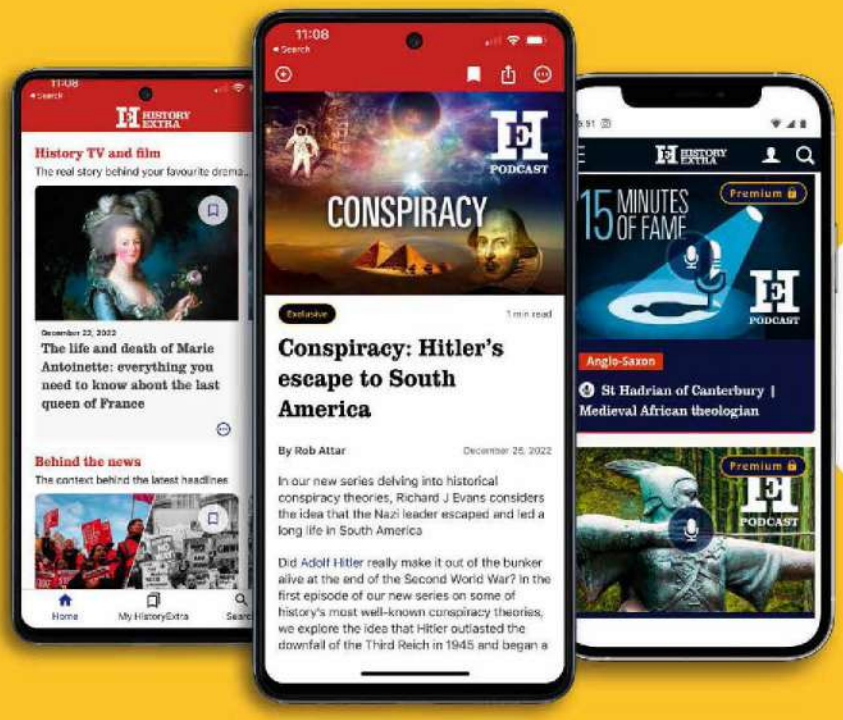
History TV and film
The life and death of Marie Antoinette: everything you need to know about the last queen of France
Behind the news
CONSPIRACY
Conspiracy: Hitler's escape to South America
By Rob Attar
In our new series delving into historical conspiracy theories, Richard J Evans considers the idea that the Nazi leader escaped and led a long life in South America
Did Adolf Hitler really make it out of the bunker alive at the end of the Second World War? In the first episode of our new series on some of history's most well-known conspiracy theories, we explore the idea that Hitler outlasted the downfall of the Third Reich in 1945 and began a
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Premium
Anglo-Saxon
St Hadrian of Canterbury | Medieval African theologian

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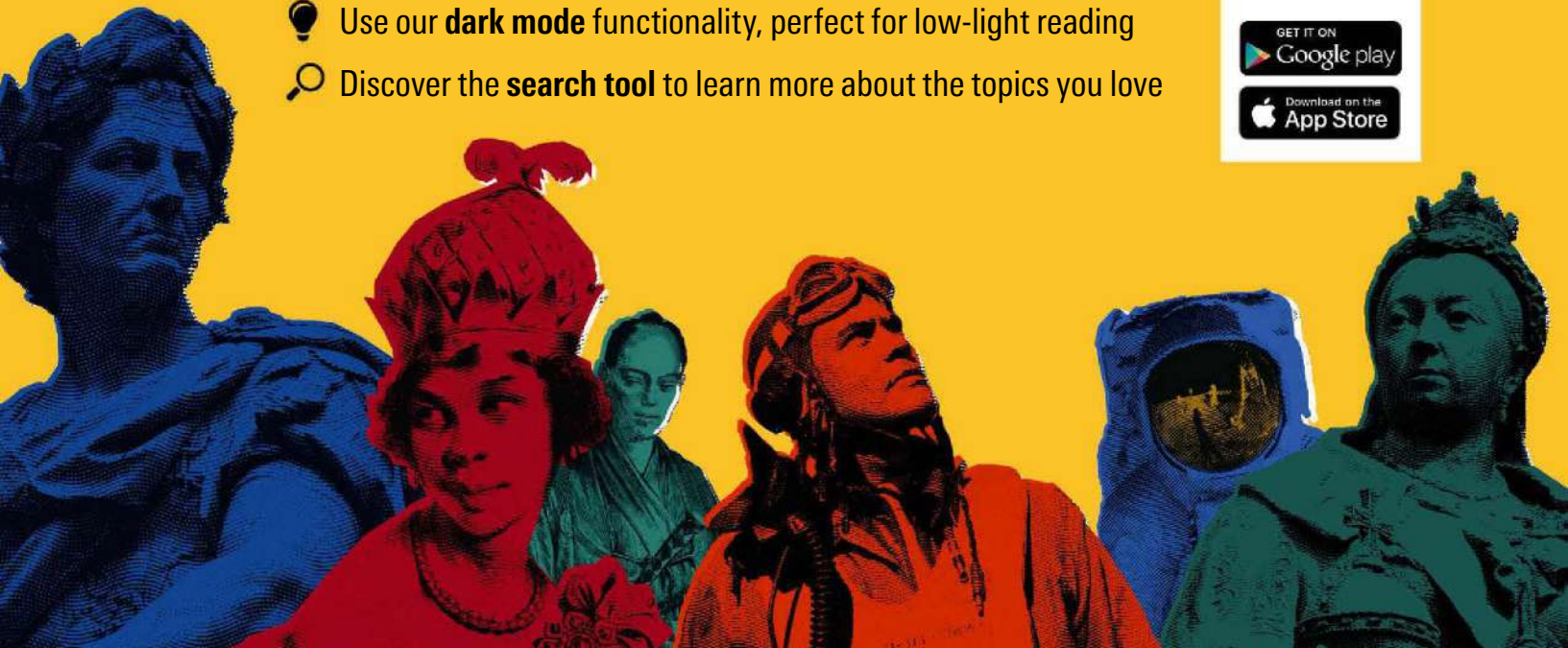


ONE TO WATCH

The Manx Electric Railway (*above*) and the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway (*right*), are just two of the heritage attractions that Michael Portillo visits in his latest coastal adventure

Train man

Great Coastal Railway Journeys / BBC Two and BBC iPlayer, from May

It's more than a decade since Michael Portillo, clutching a battered vintage copy of the travel book *Bradshaw's Guide* and inevitably dressed in pastel colours, first set out to explore Britain's railways. Over these years, proving that an elegantly simple idea will take you a long way, *Great British Railway Journeys* and its spinoffs have become staples of the BBC's schedules.

In 2022, *Great Coastal Railway Journeys* was added to the Portillo rolling stock. It was such a success that it's now returning for a second series – just in time for the summer holiday season, when we're all keenest to see the sea. The format is familiar, featuring as it does Portillo undertaking a series of point-to-point train trips, but never missing an opportunity to alight and meet the locals or explore the history of the region he's visiting.

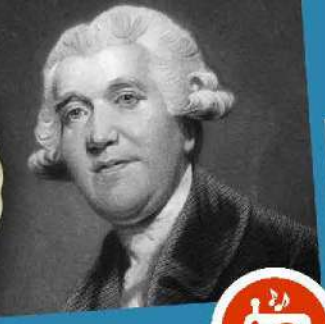
This time around, we're promised, Portillo will undertake journeys that take in the Giant's Causeway, basalt columns on the coast of Northern Ireland that were formed around 60 million years ago, and the Jurassic Coast of Dorset. First up, though, Portillo travels from Douglas, the capital of the Isle of Man, to the Solway Firth, which lies at the meeting point of Cumbria in England and Dumfries and Galloway in Scotland.

The opener set on the Isle of Man is a particular treat, if only because the Manx Electric Railway features prominently. Construction of this tramway began in 1893 and, remarkably, still relies almost entirely on its original – and beautifully preserved – rolling stock.

Other highlights in the episode include a visit to the Tynwald, the parliament of the self-governing island, an institution that has existed since at least the 13th century. He also visits Castle Rushen, one of the best examples of a medieval castle in Europe, and gets behind the wheel of a Peel P50, an improbably tiny microcar that first went into production on the island in 1962.

WEEKLY TV & RADIO
Visit *historyextra.com* for updates on upcoming TV and radio programmes

ALAMY X1, BBC/NAKED/FREMANTLE X1



A new documentary examines the legacy of Josiah Wedgwood (*far right*), whose firm even made tablewear for Catherine the Great (*right*)

Solly McLeod and Sophie Wilde play the romantic leads in a new adaptation of *Tom Jones* – one of the first English-language works to be classified as a novel

Ribald adventures

Tom Jones / ITVX, streaming from May

Originally published in February 1749 and one of the first novels in English, Henry Fielding's *The History of Tom Jones, A Foundling* is still in print today. One reason for this was identified by scriptwriter Gwyneth Hughes when her new adaptation was first announced in 2021.

"Tom Jones is the mother of all romcoms and isn't that just what we all need after the last couple of years of misery?" she said, speaking at a time when lockdowns had ended only relatively recently. "It's a story where the sun barely stops shining, where love conquers all, and at its warm heart stand a pair of young sweethearts everyone can root for."

Hughes' adaptation stars Solly McLeod in the lead role of illegitimate Tom, a good-natured lad but someone all too easily drawn into misadventures, and Sophie Wilde as Tom's beau, Sophia Western, the embodiment of virtue and beauty. Can the two overcome the obstacles in their path and begin to build a life together?

You can probably guess the answer to that, but it should still be fun to see how events play out, especially as Fielding was writing in years when people were far less buttoned up about sexual matters than in the Victorian era.

It should help too that this is an adaptation with a top notch supporting cast. Look out for the likes of Hannah Waddingham (*Ted Lasso, Game of Thrones*) as Lady Bellaston, who tries to prevent Tom and Sophia from getting together, and James Fleet (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*) as Squire Allworthy, Tom's long suffering guardian.

The four-part series follows the titular character as he navigates the complexities of life in 18th-century England

Slow decline

Wedgwood: A Very British Tragedy / BBC Radio 4, Monday 5 June

The founder of the Wedgwood company, Josiah Wedgwood (1730–95), was an extraordinary man, a social reformer, entrepreneur and innovator whose work paved the way for the industrialisation of the European pottery industry.

In 1773, 250 years ago, his business arguably reached its zenith when Wedgwood made a 1,000-piece dinner service for Catherine the Great. This was a company that sold china to China. Yet despite this rich heritage, Wedgwood's subsequent history was largely one of diminishing returns. In 2009, Waterford Wedgwood was placed into administration.

What went wrong over these years? It's a question that Tristram Hunt, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, explores in a documentary that has much to say about outsourcing and the place of design and innovation in manufacturing success.

Bel Powley (*right, with co-star Joe Cole*) plays the lead role in a new drama about World War II heroine Miep Gies, which also looks at her life as a young adoptee (*main*)

ITVX X2, DISNEY+ X2, GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X1

Making a difference

The History Makers / BBC Radio 4 and BBC Sounds, Wednesday 31 May

The outline of World War II is often told as a narrative of decisions made by the great, the good and the downright evil, decisions that in turn influenced how the conflict unfolded as a kind of grand game of chess. Yet there are also smaller stories, tales explored in a 10-part series that focuses in on individuals who made a difference, often in unexpected ways. One episode, for example, is devoted to Major Charity Adams Earley (1918–2002). An officer in the US Women's Army Corps (WAAC), she was put in charge of the only predominantly black and female battalion sent overseas in World War II. Given six months to clear a backlog of mail to troops, an important task in terms of maintaining morale, she got the job done in three months.

'Garbo' had a very different war. He was an agent who created a false identity as a pro-Nazi Spanish government official. When the Germans ordered him to move to Britain and recruit agents on their behalf, he instead went to Lisbon, from where he created a bogus spy network. Later, he played a key role in Operation Fortitude, in which the Allies worked to convince the Germans that landings were planned for the Calais region rather than Normandy.

Each episode features contributions from a historian and someone close to the person being profiled. The show on Garbo, for instance, features the voices of his daughter, Maria Kreisler, and writer Nigel West, who revealed Garbo's true identity, Juan Pujol García (1912–88), to the wider world in 1984.

MAIN: **An episode of *The History Makers* delves into the life of a man involved in Operation Fortitude – an Allied deception plan that involved inflatable tanks**

RIGHT: **Another instalment focuses on pioneering US officer Major Charity Adams Earley (*centre*), seen here inspecting troops**

Everyday bravery

A Small Light / Disney+, streaming now

In July 1942, Anne Frank and her family went into hiding in Amsterdam. In a claustrophobic annex, they would evade capture for two years until August 1944 when they were arrested by the Gestapo, a prelude to being sent to Nazi concentration camps. Anne and her sister, Margot, died in 1945 at Bergen-Belsen, probably of typhus.

That the Franks evaded the Nazis for even two years was in large part thanks to the efforts of Miep Gies (1909–2010). Having worked for Anne's father, Otto, since the 1930s, Gies was a family confidante who used subterfuge – shopping at multiple outlets and using illegally obtained ration cards – to procure food for the Franks and those hiding with them. It was Gies who made sure Anne's papers were saved.

This new drama series tells the story of what happened from the perspective of Gies (Bel Powley) and her husband, Jan (Joe Cole), a member of the Dutch Resistance. The title comes from Gies' own later reflection on what she did: "I don't like being called a hero because no one should ever think you have to be special to help others. Even an ordinary secretary or a housewife or a teenager can turn on a small light in a dark room."

Magic v misogyny

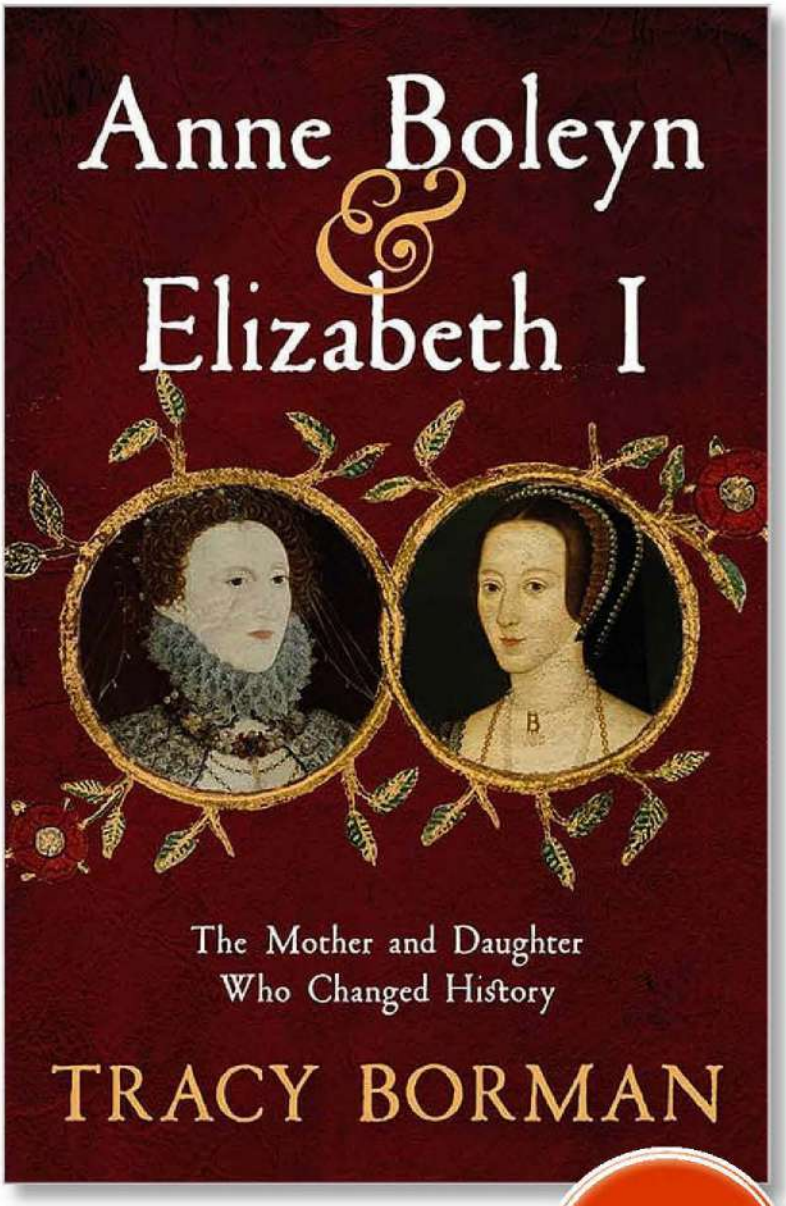
Witch / BBC Radio 4, May

The term 'witch' is often used to conjure up suspicion and fear, but why is this? In a new 13-part series, broadcaster India Rakusen (*28ish Days Later*) considers how the word has been used, abused and weaponised down the years.

As well as exploring why the idea of being a witch is now being reassessed and even claimed by so many contemporary women, Rakusen also delves into the history here, including the persecution and execution of women (*above*), as well as others deemed to be on the edge of society.

BOOKS & PODCASTS

THIS MONTH'S BEST HISTORICAL READS AND LISTENS



BOOK OF THE MONTH

Anne Boleyn and Elizabeth I: The Mother and Daughter Who Changed History

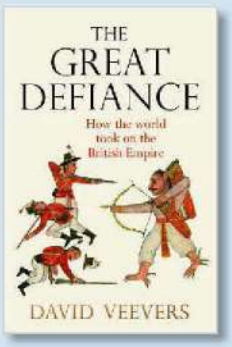
By Tracy Borman
Hodder & Stoughton, £25, hardback, 320 pages

Herself a Tudor titan, Elizabeth I also claimed two historical heavyweights – Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn – as parents, and this latest offering from leading expert Tracy Borman delves into the relationship between mother and daughter. Boleyn's death on her husband's orders when Elizabeth was not yet three years old meant that the relationship was only brief, but Borman suggests it was one that the future queen drew upon, championed and commemorated throughout the rest of her life.

The Great Defiance: How the World Took on the British Empire

By David Veevers
Ebury Press, £25, hardback, 512 pages

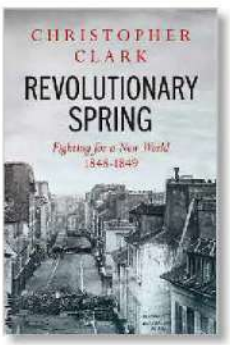
Given the sheer scope of the British empire at its height, it's unsurprising that it faced resistance and rebellion from some of the peoples and cultures that it tried to rule over or conquer. From commercial failure in East Asia to the sustained opposition it faced in regions including North America and West Africa, David Veevers here charts the difficulties and outright disasters that thwarted the imperial project at every stage of its development.

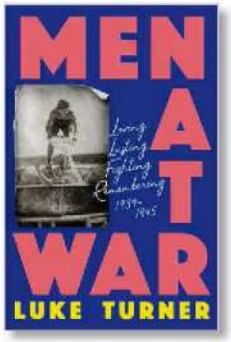


Revolutionary Spring: Fighting for a New World, 1848–1849

By Christopher Clark
Allen Lane, £35, hardback, 896 pages

Throughout the first months of 1848, nations around Europe were gripped by a revolutionary fervour. Protests in Paris led to the collapse of the French monarchy, while a confrontation between troops and crowds in Berlin spiralled out of control. Christopher Clark's new book examines the causes and consequences of these uprisings, revealing how revolutionaries and counter-revolutionaries battled over issues such as poverty and power. In doing so, he sheds light on how this time of turmoil forged the world of today.





Men at War: Loving, Lusting, Fighting, Remembering 1939–1945

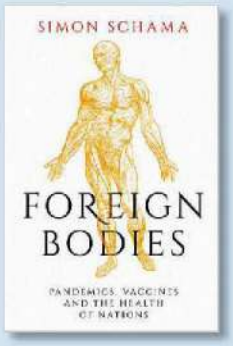
By Luke Turner
W&N, £18.99, hardback, 352 pages

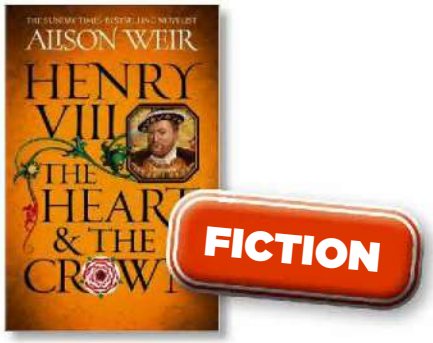
How were the lives, identities, bodies and sexualities of a generation of men reshaped by World War II? And how has that conflict continued to shape the masculinity of subsequent generations? Those are the questions at the heart of this vibrant book, which brings together the case studies of a diverse array of individuals to reveal stories often erased by narratives of the period. By turns eye-opening and moving, this is a refreshing attempt to look again at the war's social and cultural legacy.

Foreign Bodies: Pandemics, Vaccines and the Health of Nations

By Simon Schama
Simon & Schuster, £30, hardback, 480 pages

The historical trends that contributed to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the scientific innovations and developments that paved the way for vaccination against it, are explored in this fascinating, detailed account. Simon Schama profiles the pioneering work of individuals such as writer and inoculation advocate Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and bacteriologist Waldemar Haffkine, and argues that the story of contagion and cure acts as a reminder of humanity's interconnectedness – with each other and with the world around us.





Henry VIII: The Heart and the Crown

By Alison Weir
Headline Review, £25, hardback, 640 pages

Alison Weir's bestselling *Six Tudor Queens* series empathetically and evocatively chronicled the hopes, fears and ambitions of Henry VIII's wives – but now, in her latest novel, she turns her attention to the king himself. How did the boy who never expected to rule, who expected his dreams of power and chivalry to remain mere fantasies, become a monarch loved and feared in equal measure? This is characteristically dynamic, sympathetic stuff from one of historical fiction's biggest names.

PODCAST WHAT TO LISTEN TO...

Each month we bring you three of our favourite podcasts from the BBC and HistoryExtra

What did the Tudors wear?

bit.ly/TudorClothesPod121

If you've ever wondered what underwear people sported in the 16th century (or, indeed, what the deal was with all those codpieces), this is the podcast for you. Professor Jane Malcolm-Davies takes a peek into the Tudor wardrobe to tackle pressing clothing conundrums, from how many garments people would have owned to the unusual fashion trend that she'd like to see revived in the 21st century.

Killing Victoria

bit.ly/VictoriaPod121

Queen Victoria's reign is famed for its longevity – yet across those 63 years, seven young men came perilously close of bringing it to a premature end. Dr Bob Nicholson's fascinating new podcast series tells the stories of their assassination attempts, what brought them within seconds of taking the life of a monarch, and what the cases reveal about the currents and challenges of the Victorian era.

Six Wives

bit.ly/SixWivesPod121

Sacrifice and survival, love and betrayal, sex and death. So goes the tumultuous, often tragic tale of Henry VIII's wives. Yet has its apparent familiarity clouded our view of the real story of these six women? This major new podcast series, presented by *HistoryExtra*'s Ellie Cawthorne, draws on expert insight in a bid to look anew at their lives, and the ways in which they shaped their own destinies.

ON THE PODCAST

CURATED HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HISTORYEXTRA PODCAST ARCHIVE

9 PODCAST EPISODES ABOUT THE VIKINGS TO STREAM NOW

Want to learn more about the Vikings? We've rounded up some of the best *HistoryExtra* podcast episodes on the topic, featuring historians Levi Roach, Janina Ramirez and Gareth Williams, plus screenwriter and producer Michael Hirst…

THE GLOBAL VIKINGS

In a fascinating episode recorded in spring 2019, medieval historian Levi Roach describes how Norse people raided, explored and settled far beyond their Scandinavian homelands. Some even sailed across the Atlantic to North America, building a base in what's now Newfoundland.

SECRETS OF LINDISFARNE

Archaeologist David Petts and Lisa Wilkins of DigVentures discuss an extraordinary Viking-era discovery at the monastic site of Lindisfarne, Northumberland, in this episode from February 2020. The conversation also covers the broader history of the Holy Island.

VIKING WOMEN

What was everyday life like for women in Norse society? In an episode from 2020, Jóhanna Katrín Friðriksdóttir, author of *Valkyrie: The Women of the Viking World*, explores daily life, along with the opportunities available to Norse women – and the challenges they faced.

VIKING RAIDS

What drove the Vikings to launch their seaborne attacks? And what sparked the dawn of the Viking Age? Robert Ferguson investigates these topics in an episode from 2009, as well as examining different tribal identities and mercenaries among the hordes of raiding warriors.

ON SCREEN: *VIKINGS* AND *THE LAST KINGDOM*

In March 2018, we spoke to *Vikings* screenwriter and producer Michael Hirst about Norse women, dead languages and how to create a historical blockbuster. We also interviewed Bernard Cornwell about his books that inspired *The Last Kingdom*.

VIKING BRITAIN

We spoke to Thomas Williams about his book *Viking Britain: An Exploration*, in this show from 2017. He offers a fresh take on several centuries of Viking invasions and rule in Britain, revealing how their arrival coincided with the consolidation of English and Scottish identities.

VIKING SHIPS

In this episode from 2013, Giles Kristian – author of a series of Viking novels – recalls his adventures aboard a replica Viking longship. Describing how it felt to row the huge vessel, he explains how the experience shaped and influenced research for his next historical novel.

VIKING CULTURE

How did the Vikings transform culture in the British Isles? In a 2013 episode, Oxford historian Janina Ramirez reveals how the region's social, cultural, political and genetic make-up changed, and also that relations between Vikings and Anglo-Saxons weren't defined only by violence.

VIKING SAGAS

Emily Lethbridge explores the Icelandic Viking sagas in this discussion recorded in 2012. Are they just action-packed flights of imagination, or can we consider them to be 'real' history, documenting relationships, expeditions and conflicts that occurred in the Viking world?

HISTORY EXTRA PODCAST

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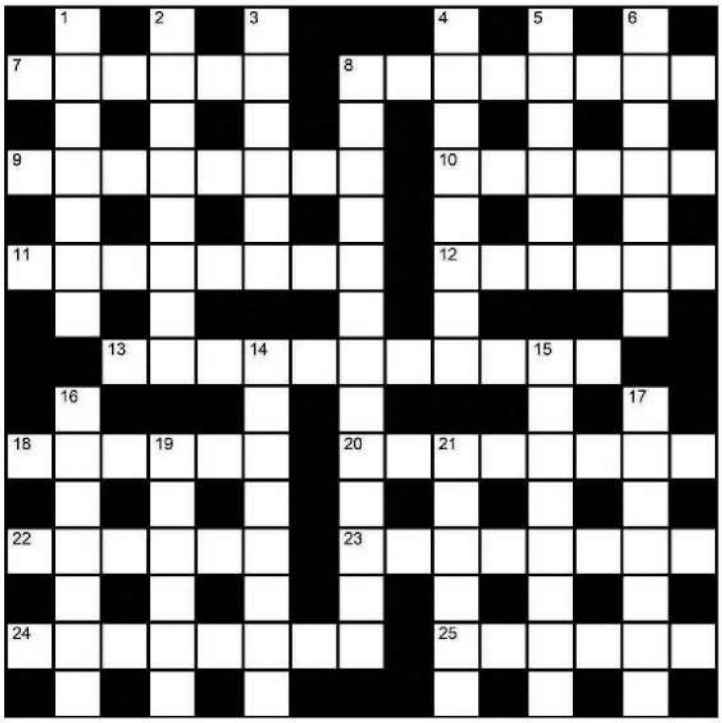
ACROSS

7 Town of western France, known historically for its striped red handkerchiefs (6)
8 Robert A ___ (1907–88), US science fiction author (8)
9 Feminist magazine launched in 1972 (5,3)
10 Army provisioner, historically (6)
11 Bosnian city, besieged from 1992 to 1996 (8)
12 1516 work by Thomas More (6)
13 California city founded by Thomas Baker (11)
18 Thomas ___ (1795–1842), Rugby School headmaster (6)
20 One who attempted to divine the future by inspecting animal entrails (8)
22 Great ___, rift in the Catholic Church, 1378–1417 (6)
23 Queen of Castile from 1474 to 1504 (8)
24 US gangster (1899–1947), convicted of tax evasion in 1931 (2,6)
25 Ferocious creature in mythology, folklore and fantasy (6)

DOWN

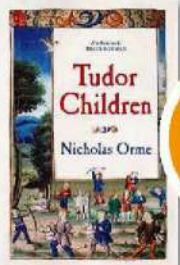
1 Harold ___ (1946–2004), English serial killer (7)
2 Byname of Elizabeth I (8)
3 Laurence ___ (1713–68), Anglo-Irish cleric and novelist (6)
4 The 'Show-Me' State, admitted to the Union in 1821 (8)
5 One of the three Fates, in Greek myth (6)
6 Region of north Asia, historically home to the Koryak, Chukchi and Yukaghir people (7)



Set by Richard Smyth

8 1915 play by Harold Brighouse (7,6)
14 1818 poem by John Keats (8)
15 Resort city in Nevada, incorporated in 1911 (3,5)
16 1897 horror novel by Bram Stoker (7)
17 Hector ___ (1803–69), French composer (7)
19 ___ Kenobi, character played by Alec Guinness in Star Wars (1977) (3-3)
21 Country of central Africa, riven by civil war from 1990 to 1994 (6)

CHANCE TO WIN



BOOK WORTH £20 FOR THREE WINNERS

Tudor Children
by Nicholas Orme

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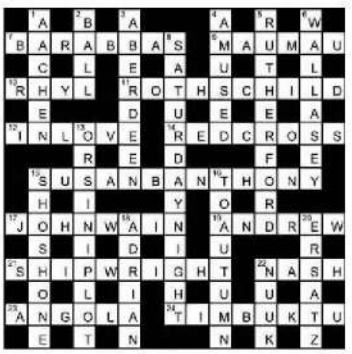

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The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of ***BBC History Revealed***) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at www.immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy-policy. The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company London Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the closing date. If the winner is unable to be contacted within one month of the closing date, Immediate Media Company London Limited reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner-up.
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LETTERS

Norham Castle was built in the 12th century by Ranulf Flambard, bishop of Durham, as a defensive fortress to guard against the Scots

Pablo Picasso pictured c1950. Apparently the artist did not take too kindly to a restaurant customer criticising his 'napkin art'

GETTY IMAGES X2

FORT THOUGHTS

I am disappointed that you failed to include Norham Castle in Northumberland in your list of British castles to visit (May 2023). Norham commands a vital ford over the River Tweed, and was besieged by the Scots on numerous occasions. Robert the Bruce tried for over a year to take it, but failed. Not for nothing was it called the most dangerous castle in England.

It fell in 1513 to James IV of Scotland, who used cannons to take the castle but who was killed shortly afterwards – in September 1513, at the battle of Branxton, also commonly known as Flodden. It was rebuilt in the 16th century.

Reluctantly, I accept that Bamburgh Castle fails to meet your criteria (although no one can argue that Bamburgh has not had a significant historical past). Needless to say, Northumberland boasts a number of other significant castles, including Warkworth and Dunstanburgh.

Richard Gunn,
by email

Editor replies:
Many thanks for your comments and suggestion of Norham Castle, Richard. Alas, space constraints meant that we could feature only a small selection of Britain's many great castles in our Essential Guide.

SMART ART

The mention of Salvador Dalí dodging payment of bills by doodling on the back of cheques (Q&A, March 2023) reminded me of a story about Pablo Picasso. He was once asked to sketch something on a napkin by a restaurant customer, who offered to pay whatever Picasso thought the drawing was worth. When told $10,000, the customer complained that Picasso had taken only 30 seconds to create it – to which the artist replied that it had actually taken him 40 years, and screwed up the napkin. The story may be apocryphal. Not all artists' work is valued so highly. In 2008, when a Leeds fish-and-chip-shop owner tried to auction off a pickled fish given to him by Damien Hirst, it failed to reach its reserve price.

Ian MacDonald,
Essex

NEXT ISSUE

••• ON SALE 8 JUNE •••

LIFE IN THE TRENCHES

Discover what life was like for soldiers on the front line – from sanitation and disease, to the horrors of the Somme

PLUS... IN PICTURES: AMERICA'S INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN A NUTSHELL: THE FOUNDATION OF ENGLAND **CHEVALIER D'ÉON, THE SECRET AGENT WHO LIVED AS A WOMAN** LIFE HACKS FROM HISTORY **WHAT IF... THE WAR OF THE SPANISH SUCCESSION HAD NEVER HAPPENED?** AND MUCH MORE...

CROSSWORD WINNERS

The three lucky winners of the prize crossword in issue 118 are as follows:

R Beckett, London
B Chopra, Surrey
C Clark, Cumbria

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of *More Lessons from History* by Alex Deane.

We will post your prizes out as soon as possible.

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EMAIL US: haveyoursay@historyrevealed.com
OR POST: Have Your Say, BBC History Revealed, Immediate Media, Eagle House, Colston Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4ST

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OVERSEAS: In the US/Canada you can contact us at:
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PHONE: Toll-free 888-941-5623
EMAIL VIA: immediatemedia@buysubscriptions.com

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EDITORIAL
Editor Charlotte Hodgman
charlotte.hodgman@immediate.co.uk
Production Editor Jon Bauckham
Staff Writer Danny Bird
Art Editor Sheu-Kuei Ho

DIGITAL
Digital Editor Elinor Evans
elinor.evans@immediate.co.uk
Deputy Digital Editor Kev Lochun
Premium Content Editor Rachel Dinning
Podcast Editor Ellie Cawthorne

CONTRIBUTORS & EXPERTS
Paul Bloomfield, Rowena Cockett, Michael Cocks, Matt Elton, Michael Goodman, Carol Jacobi, Lisa Moses, Tanya Oliver, Gordon O'Sullivan, Justin Pollard, Michael Rapport, Angela Saini, Richard Smyth, Nige Tassell, Daniel Watkins, Zack White, Jonny Wilkes, Jonathan Wright

PRESS & PR
Communications Manager
Natasha Lee *natasha.lee@immediate.co.uk*

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager John Lawton

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
Advertisement Manager
Sam Jones 0117 300 8145
sam.jones@immediate.co.uk
Senior Brand Sales Executive
Sam Evanson 0117 300 8544
Brand Sales Executive
Sarah Luscombe 0117 300 8530
Group Direct Marketing Manager
Laurence Robertson 00353 5787 57444
Subscriptions Director
Jacky Perales-Morris
Subscriptions Marketing Manager
Sally Longstaff
Direct Marketing Manager
Aisha Babb
US Representative
Kate Buckley *buckley@buckleypell.com*

PRODUCTION
Production Director Sarah Powell
Production Coordinator Holly Donmall
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PUBLISHING
Content Director David Musgrove
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PHOTO FINISH

ARRESTING IMAGES FROM THE ANNALS OF THE PAST

MONUMENTAL JOURNEY 1931

Three men atop one of the pyramids of Giza watch as the German-built LZ 127 *Graf Zeppelin* floats over the ancient necropolis near Cairo, Egypt. Launched in 1928 and named after airship pioneer Ferdinand von Zeppelin – a *Graf* (count) of the German aristocracy – the dirigible balloon undertook its most famous journey in 1929, circumnavigating the globe in 21 days. Such hydrogen-buoyed craft were seen as the future of commercial air travel – until the catastrophic crash of the *Hindenburg* in 1937, killing 36 people, dealt a fatal blow to such hopes. In the 1930s, the *Graf Zeppelin* shipped passengers and mail between Germany and Brazil before being deployed by the Nazi regime for propaganda purposes. It was scrapped in 1940 and its parts repurposed for use in military aircraft.

GETTY IMAGES

'Social history at its best ...
by connecting with our own history as children, Orme invites us to embrace a new way of engaging with the past'

JOANNE PAUL, *The Times*

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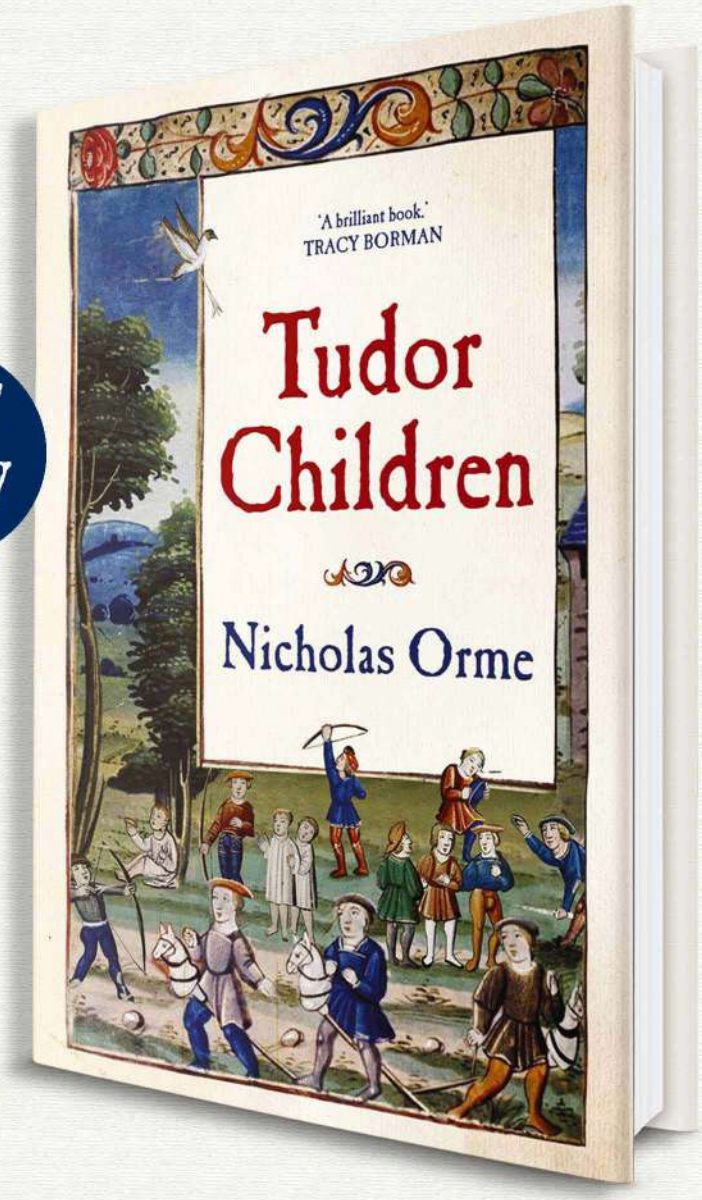

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IAN SANSOM, *The Telegraph*

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KATHRYN HUGHES, *Sunday Times*

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TRACY BORMAN, author of *The Private Lives of the Tudors*

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